

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

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at stake in  
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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2004

50¢

# Powell: Iran fitting missiles for nukes

Intel doesn't show country has nuclear weapons, he adds Page 14



AP photos

From left, President George W. Bush and former presidents Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush and Jimmy Carter walk near the William J. Clinton Presidential Center during opening ceremonies in Little Rock, Ark., on Thursday.



Fireworks light up the Little Rock sky over the presidential center on Wednesday, the night before its grand opening.

## Fanfare marks opening of Clinton library

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## STARS &amp; STRIPES

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## World

**Afghanistan opium wars:** Afghanistan is on its way to becoming a "narco-state" and U.S. and NATO-led forces in the country should get more involved in fighting the drug trade as well as terrorists, according to a U.N. report released Thursday.

The agency found that this year's cultivation of opium — the raw material for heroin — was up by nearly two-thirds. Bad weather and disease kept production from setting a new record, although it still accounted for 87 percent of the world supply, up from 76 percent in 2003.

The illegal trade is booming despite political progress in the country, including the first presidential election, and local drug control efforts led by British military advisers.

**Thatcher charged in coup plot:** Equatorial Guinea prosecutors confirmed Thursday they have charged Mark Thatcher, son of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in an alleged coup plot in the oil-rich west African nation.

Thatcher is accused of having helped finance the coup attempt, African General Jose Olo Obono said.

Equatorial Guinea intends to seek Thatcher's extradition, a legal official close to the government's case told The Associated Press earlier this week.

**Spanish terror attack:** Terrorists like those who set off bombs on Spanish commuter trains, killing 191 people, will attack again somewhere despite the best efforts by any government to safeguard its citizens, Spain's former secretary for state security said Thursday.

"Today the world is threatened by radical Islamic terrorism. We know it has increased its capability ... its evil," Ignacio Arsuaga told the parliamentary commission investigating the March 11 train bombings. "We face the gravest threat. They'll try again."

**Space station troubles:** A Russian space transport ship failed to fully raise the orbit of the International Space Station in preparation for next month's docking of a supply ship, a Russian news agency reported Wednesday.

Alexander Kireyev, head of the ballistic coordination group at Russia's Mission Control outside Moscow, said the docked Progress transport ship was supposed to raise the orbiting station by about 2.8 miles, but the ship's engines were not strong enough.

He said the station was raised by only 1.68 miles, but that it would still be enough to allow a new transport ship, scheduled to be launched from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Dec. 23, to dock.

**Bioterror alert system:** A global system designed to spot bioterrorist attacks or new disease outbreaks became even more global Wednesday — it now gathers information in six more languages.



**Bonfire tragedy commemorated:** A visitor views the memorial to honor the 12 students who died and 27 others who were injured during the Nov. 10, 1999, collapse of the Texas A&M University bonfire in College Station, Texas. The memorial was the site of an intimate and silent ceremony Thursday, as hundreds gathered at 2:42 a.m. — the exact time of the collapse — on the grassy field where 12 Aggies were killed and 27 others were injured in 1999. The \$5 million memorial's centerpiece is a circle of 12 rectangular arches, one for each victim. They are connected by 27 large stones, symbolic of those injured.

The Global Health Intelligence Network, created in 1998, previously scanned only English language news reports for signs of infectious disease crises. Beginning Wednesday, it scans reports in Arabic, French, Russian, Spanish, and both simplified and traditional Chinese.

The Nuclear Threat Initiative, a U.S.-based nonprofit, is dedicated to reducing the threat of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

**Kidnapped U.N. workers:** Three U.N. workers kidnapped three weeks ago in the Afghan capital remain out of reach, a government official said Thursday, as the world body appealed anew for their release.

Armed men seized Philippine diplomat Angelito Nayan, British-Irish citizen Annet Flanagan and Shipe Hebi of Kosovo on Oct. 28, in the first kidnapping of foreigners in Kabul since the fall of the Taliban three years ago.

"There is no update," Interior Ministry spokesman Latfullah Mashal said Thursday.

## States

**Peterson trial:** The attorney representing Scott Peterson, who was convicted of killing his pregnant wife, wants a new jury in a different county to decide whether Peterson gets the death penalty or life in prison without parole.

Defense lawyer Mark Geragos made the request in a motion filed Wednesday in San Mateo County Superior Court. The details will not be made public until after Judge Alfred A. Delucchi reviews the file before the

scheduled start of the penalty phase Monday morning, which could now be delayed.

**Al-Qaida intelligence:** The Clinton administration was deeply concerned in 2000 that al-Qaida sleeper cells existed in North America and considered ways to move against them, according to newly released testimony.

"There were two simultaneous plots, one in Jordan and one in the United States, and they both involved American citizens," Bush administration critic Richard Clarke testified in June 2002 before a congressional inquiry into the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The release of Clarke's 2002 testimony stems from Republican attempts to undermine his criticism of the Bush administration.

## Military

**Brownlee resigns:** Les Brownlee, the highly decorated Vietnam veteran who served as acting secretary of the Army for 18 months after Thomas White was fired, submitted his resignation Wednesday.

In a brief statement, the Pentagon said Brownlee's resignation is effective Dec. 3.

Brownlee, 65, joined the Bush administration as undersecretary of the Army in November 2001. He took on the added responsibilities of acting secretary in May 2003, when Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld dismissed White after a series of disputes over the pace of the Army's force modernization.

On Tuesday, the Senate confirmed Francis J. Harvey as the next Army secretary. Stories and photos from The Associated Press

## Correction

A caption in Thursday's edition that ran with a photo of a visit by Warren Miles to Mannheim Middle School, Germany, included some incorrect information. Miles has extensive knowledge of the area in which "Zlata's Diary" was written, but is not the author.



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Capt. Sean Sims



1st Lt. Edward Iwan



Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Faulkenburg



Sgt. James Matteson

# 2nd Battalion loses 4 of its own in 5 days

## Vilseck community grieves soldiers killed in battles for Fallujah

BY RICK EMERT  
Stars and Stripes

VILSECK, Germany — War came home Wednesday to Rose Barracks in Vilseck.

On a gray, cold and rainy day that reflected just how this community felt, more than 700 people filled the Vilseck Chapel and adjoining fellowship room to say farewell to four 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment soldiers killed last week in the battle for Fallujah, Iraq.

The unit had dispatched grief counselors to help people deal with the Nov. 9 death of Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Faulkenburg.

But before the community could say farewell to Faulkenburg — his memorial service was scheduled for Wednesday — word came Saturday that three more 2-2 Infantry soldiers had fallen in Fallujah.

The three were Capt. Sean Sims, 1st Lt. Edward Iwan and Sgt. James Matteson. Sims, Iwan and Matteson all were from Company A. The battalion lost its command sergeant major, a company commander, a company executive officer and a team leader all within five days.

With the helmets, rifles, boots and identification tags of the four standing at the front of the chapel as tangible proof that this tragedy was real, many people were in tears before the service began.

The community did not have to grieve alone. Gen. B.B. Bell and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Gravens, U.S. Army Europe's commander and command sergeant major, were there.

Col. Dana Pittard, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team commander, who oversees the 2nd Battalion's Task Force 2-2 Infantry, returned from Iraq for the service. He brought a strong dose of healing power with him.

"As soldiers always know, there is a possibility of death, but when it hits, it hits so very hard," Pittard said in remarks during the service.

"In Iraq, it may seem easier to deal with. We mourn; we grieve, but most of us move on. Here at home in Vilseck, it's different. When the news hit here, our world temporarily stopped."

After the service, Pittard stood in the entrance of the chapel to



RICK EMERT/Stars and Stripes

The helmets, rifles, dog tags and boots of Capt. Sean Sims, 1st Lt. Edward Iwan, Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Faulkenburg and Sgt. James Matteson stand Wednesday at the front of the Vilseck Chapel during a memorial service for the four 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment soldiers killed last week in fighting in Fallujah, Iraq. The small, close-knit community of Rose Barracks has been devastated by the losses.

comfort community members. Many broke down and sobbed in his arms. They expressed thanks to the colonel, who still has a war to fight in Iraq, for being there. It took the roughly 400 people in the chapel almost an hour to exit.

During the service, some soldiers shared their memories of the fallen soldiers.

### Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Faulkenburg

"I knew [Faulkenburg] well on a professional level," said Master Sgt. Timothy Ledoux, 3rd Brigade Combat Team operations noncommissioned officer.

"My soldiers were a little afraid of him at first, but it only took getting to know him. [Faulkenburg] was everywhere, always checking on his soldiers."

Pittard called him a legend in the 2nd Battalion "Ramrods."

"Command Sergeant Major Faulkenburg was an icon," he said. "When he was around, you knew he had your back. He would say to me: 'Sir, Ramrods are here. We got it.'"

"Every time I spoke with him, he beamed with pride and confidence. When we think of the Ramrods, we will always think of [Faulkenburg]."

Faulkenburg is survived by his wife, Tonya, and daughters April, Jenna Clifton and Katherine Clifton.

### Capt. Sean Sims

Sims was described as both a great leader and family man. He was commander of the battalion's Company A in Iraq.

"I know the soldiers of Company A were proud to call Sean their commander and proud to fight with him in combat," said Capt. Steven Tabat, commander, Company B, 2-2 Infantry.

"His love for his family was nothing short of inspirational," Tabat said. He said Sims talked of his wife, Heidi, "like they were at once both newlyweds and an old married couple."

He also said that community members "have the responsibility to cherish our memories [of Sims] and share them" with his

son, Colin. He said Sims "loved his son, he loved his wife, and he gave the ultimate sacrifice, because he loved his country."

Spc. Joe Seyford was injured in the firefight that took Sims' life.

"He was a great man," Seyford said of Sims after the service. "It's hard for me. For the guys [in Iraq], I know it's really tough. Someone has to fill that slot. We were almost done [in Fallujah], and we lost him."

Sims is survived by his wife and son.

### 1st Lt. Edward Iwan

Iwan, who spent time as an enlisted soldier before earning his commission, had a hard time letting go of his enlisted-soldier duties, said 1st Sgt. Felipe Ogas, Company B, 2-2 Infantry. Iwan was the Company A executive officer in Iraq.

"In Kosovo, I had to chase him out of the motor pool all the time. He was always in there trying to fix the Humvees," Ogas said.

"I knew I could always count on a smile from this tall,

red-haired officer and leader of men. He was happy. He was doing what he signed on to do. He was being a leader."

Iwan is survived by his parents, Kenneth and Donna Iwan.

### Sgt. James Matteson

Sgt. Kirby Nebeker, rear detachment commander for Company C, 2-2 Infantry, read remarks at the service from Capt. Brian Ducote, formerly Matteson's Scout Platoon leader.

"He worked hard to be a soldier," Ducote wrote. "His soldiers not only loved him as a friend, but respected him as a leader. He never gave up, and, more importantly, his team never gave up on him. Never have I seen soldiers so dedicated to a young leader."

Matteson is survived by his father, Jay Matteson, and mother, Joyce Reynolds.

Having said a formal goodbye to its fallen soldiers, the community now must find a way to heal itself.

"No loss has touched any community more deeply than this one," said Lt. Col. Christopher Kolenda, 1st Infantry Division rear detachment commander.

"While we honor them with our grief, it is more important that we honor them by celebrating the lives they led."

"I know that it is difficult for all of us in our community," Pittard said. "I just ask that we continue to pull together and watch over each other."

Although the community was knocked to its knees by this tragedy, it will climb back to its feet, several speakers said.

"This community took a hard hit; all of these men were such wonderful people and we'll never forget them," said Megan Murphy, a fourth-grade teacher from Vilseck Elementary School, where Sims' wife, Heidi, taught sixth grade.

"For those who have husbands or fathers deployed, this has made them worry more. But it also has made our community stronger. To see that we have such great support for one another."

"We learned that we have so many great resources. We will definitely recover. We're on our way."

E-mail Rick Emert at: [emert@mail.strips.esd.mil](mailto:emert@mail.strips.esd.mil)

# New rules may allow more DODDS students a free meal

BY JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Stripes

DARMSTADT, Germany — Whoever said there was no such thing as a free lunch obviously was never a DODDS student.

For the first time in nearly 25 years, the eligibility for free or reduced-price lunches in Department of Defense Dependents Schools overseas has been re-evaluated for military and DOD civilian families living on the economy.

After a regulation change in late October, the Department of Defense Education Activity issued a statement encouraging families of DODDS pupils who live off base to apply or re-apply for free or reduced-price meals.

Under the old regulations, the off-base housing allowance was counted as income, but the new change eliminates the off-base housing allowance from the income equation, according to the DODEA statement.

"This should greatly increase the number of children eligible to receive reduced-price or free lunches at school," wrote Pat Lambe, DODEA spokeswoman, in an e-mail statement.

"Some children living off installation may find that they now qualify for reduced-price lunches,

those already eligible for the reduced prices may now qualify for free lunches."

The new policy went into effect upon the signing of an agreement between the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, according to Lambe in the statement.

However, the new policy change does not affect children of families living in military housing or pupils at DOD schools in the United States, according to Lambe.

The free or reduced-price lunch program is part of the National School Lunch Program, a federally assisted meal program operating in more than 99,800 public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Web site.

It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to more than 26 million children each school day.

Families interested in seeing if their eligibility has changed with the new policy should contact their school liaison officer, according to Frank O'Garra, the DODDS-Europe spokesman.

For more information on the National School Lunch Program, go to [www.fns.usda.gov](http://www.fns.usda.gov).

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: [inigo@mail.strips.esd.mil](mailto:inigo@mail.strips.esd.mil)

## Once upon a time



PENNIE ALLEN/Courtesy of DODDS

Garrett Taylor, fourth-grader, poses as Harry Potter as part of Gelnhausen Elementary School's Living Storybook Museum. With a click of the remote, students can listen to stories from life-like statues of characters such as Sister Lucy from "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," Cinderella and many more.



PHOTOS BY JESSICA INIGO/Stars and Stripes

Above: Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, AMC commander, speaks at a redesignation ceremony in Seckenheim, Germany, Thursday.

Right: Troops unfurl the new Army Materiel Command Field Support Brigade-Europe colors. The new unit is from a merger of the Army Materiel Command Forward — Europe and the Combat Equipment Group — Europe.



# Army Materiel Command merges 2 units in Germany

BY JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Stripes

SECKENHEIM, Germany — Troops in Europe now have a more focused way of getting everything from beans to bullets after a merger of units within the U.S. Army Materiel Command.

The Army Materiel Command Forward-Europe and the Combat Equipment Group-Europe combined to form the new Army Materiel Command Field Support Brigade-Europe.

The consolidated brigade will continue delivering technology, equipment and sustainment to forces, only in a more effective manner, according to AMC officials.

During a small ceremony Thursday in Seckenheim, with only a handful of soldiers participating and the U.S. Army Europe brass quintet playing, the two smaller units cased their colors, while the new brigade unfurled its flag.

Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, who became the AMC commander Nov. 5, said during the redesignation ceremony that AMC troops were the key to the warfighter's success.

"I want to provide you what you need to support the soldiers," said Griffin, who was visiting from the AMC headquarters in Fort Belvoir, Va.

He said that he would talk to troops and

leaders to find out what they need to make the Army more deployable, agile, versatile, lethal and survivable.

He explained that AMC touches every soldier throughout every mission, every day, and thanked the troops for their hard work.

He wasn't the only general to laud the command.

"To use a term of General Griffin's: 'If a soldier eats it, shoots it, drives it, or fights with it, AMC provides it,'" said Brig. Gen. Jerome Johnson, commander of the Army Field Support Command, a major subordinate unit of AMC based in Rock Island, Ill., after the ceremony.

Johnson explained that the merger makes the organization better synchronized.

"We'll be more effective. Whatever a soldier needs, they'll get it on time and in the quantity they need it," he said.

Johnson added that the new brigade boosts the overall Army fighting power, since some soldiers from the two former units will be freed up to move to other Army units.

AMC has about 149 locations worldwide, including in more than 40 states and 38 countries, with a workforce of 50,000 military and civilian employees.

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: [inigo@mail.strips.esd.mil](mailto:inigo@mail.strips.esd.mil)



# Commander: Insurgent 'safe haven' taken

## Primary base of operations seized in Fallujah offensive

By ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The senior U.S. Marine commander in Iraq said Thursday that the U.S.-led offensive in Fallujah has "broken the back of the insurgency" by seizing their main base of operations.

"We feel right now that we have, as mentioned, broken the back of the insurgency. We've taken away this safe haven," Lt. Gen. John Sattler told reporters at the Pentagon in a video teleconference from Fallujah.

He said that assessment was based on what U.S. officials found in records uncovered in insurgent command posts inside Fallujah. Sattler's conclusion is more optimistic than an assessment made shortly before the offensive by Marine intelligence officers, who said the insurgency would rebound if U.S. troop levels in the area were significantly reduced after the offensive.

Sattler made no mention of the intelligence assessment, but he stressed the importance of bringing essential services back on line in Fallujah as quickly as possible and starting reconstruction work. He said the insurgents are now

"scattered" in Iraq with fewer resources available to carry out attacks.

"Each and every time we can force these individuals to go to new locations, expand their circle of friends — if you want to call it that — to include some who they don't know and they don't trust, they'll bring in rookies, more jun-

wounded.

Sattler at one point said Fallujah "is not quite secure at this point," but later he said he had misspoken. "The town of Fallujah is secure, but we're in the search-and-clear phase that will make it safe — relatively safe is the best word," he said.

Bomb-making materials and

officials put the number of dead at 38.

He declined to give a firm estimate of the number of insurgents killed in the fighting, but he said the 1,200 figure cited in some news reports was "a safe number." He said 1,025 captured insurgents were in detention, and that about 150 who had been captured were subsequently determined to be nonhostile and were let go.

Sattler said city residents who fled before the U.S.-led offensive will not be allowed back until conditions are safer. He said the resettlement would be done in phases, starting with residences in the northern part of Fallujah.

Fallujah typically has a population of about 200,000. The vast majority fled before the fighting began.

"The town must be secure before we let the Fallujah people back in," he said. He gave no specific estimate of when that would happen, saying only that it would take "some time."

Coalition officials are working with Iraqi government to plan the return of civilians, setting up a Civil-Military Operations Center, or CMOC, Sattler said.

One of the plans includes a vet-

**"We feel right now that we have ... broken the back of the insurgency."**

Lt. Gen. John Sattler

U.S. Marine commander in Iraq

ior people that will, in fact, make mistakes," he said.

"And that's why I mentioned that this has disrupted them, I believe — my personal belief — across the country. This is going to make it very hard for them to operate," he said.

Sattler cautioned that remnants of the insurgents who had controlled Fallujah for months are still a problem. A group of insurgents attacked U.S. Marines and Iraqi government forces from a house inside the city Thursday, killing one Marine and one Iraqi soldier, Sattler said. One Marine and one Iraqi soldier also were

improvised explosive devices need to be recovered or disarmed, he said, and the Marines are still looking for remaining insurgents who may be lying low with the intention of disrupting efforts to reconstruct the city.

He said U.S. forces have found a number of documents from the insurgents' command posts inside the city that lists the names of some of their fighters, including some from outside of Iraq.

Sattler said the total U.S. death toll so far in the Fallujah offensive, which began Nov. 7, stands at 51, with about 425 wounded in action. Earlier in the week, U.S.



Lt. Gen. John Sattler

ting process to compensate civilians for damage to their homes and cars, as well as any injuries or deaths to family members. Sattler said, although he remarked that while 25 to 30 civilians have been treated by U.S. forces for injuries, "I know of none that have been killed."

Sattler said he could not confirm reports that the body of kidnapped British aid worker Margaret Hassan had been found in Fallujah.

Stripes reporter Lisa Burgess contributed to this report from the Pentagon.

**"The photo is actually woven into the blanket so wash after wash the image will never fade."**

### Family

Baby  
Toddler  
Mom&Dad  
Grandma&Gramps



### Pets

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Bird



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Father's Day  
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### 'Sopranos' stars tour Mideast bases

James Gandolfini and Tony Sirico, stars of the popular TV series "The Sopranos," are expected to draw mobs of fans during a series of appearances at military installations in the Persian Gulf region.

The two are currently making a series of meet-and-greet stops throughout the region as part of holiday events planned by the United Service Organizations Armed Forces Entertainment.

Gandolfini plays modern-day mob boss Tony Soprano and Sirico plays his carefully barbered captain, Paulie Walnuts, in the long-running series.

The two are touring the Persian Gulf, visiting posts, signing autographs, posing for photos and watching movies with the troops, according to the USO. Officials would not release exact stops and dates for security reasons.

Gandolfini and Sirico fellow stars such as Wayne Newton, Toby Keith and 50 Cent to the Gulf region this year, where the USO has more than a dozen holiday tours scheduled, according to a USO release.

Upcoming appearances are scheduled for Ritch Little in the Mediterranean, the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders in South Korea and cast members from "The West Wing" and "Days of Our Lives" in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, among others.

### Cpl. Hassoun's belongings found in Fallujah

FALLUJAH, Iraq — U.S. troops have recovered belongings of a U.S. Marine who was once feared beheaded by Iraqi insurgents after disappearing from his unit, U.S. officials said.

The personal effects of Cpl. Waseef Ali Hassoun were found last week in a box on the third floor of a three-story commercial building in Fallujah, the officials said. The property included an identification card, a uniform and a book.

Hassoun, of West Jordan, Utah, disappeared from his base near Fallujah in June and later turned up at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon. It remains unclear how he traveled from Iraq to Lebanon, where he has relatives.

On June 27, Arab television showed a videotape of a blindfolded Hassoun, a sword hanging over his head. At one point while he was missing, a group claiming to represent his captors announced that he had been beheaded after being tortured from the base by a love affair.

Hassoun returned in July to the Marine base at Camp Lejeune, N.C. In September, medical authorities at Camp Lejeune declared him fit for full duty, allowing him to return to the brigade motor pool where he worked before he deployed to Iraq in February.

From staff and wire reports

# U.S. troops may have found al-Zarqawi HQ

BY TINI TRAN

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. troops sweeping through Fallujah on Thursday said they believe they have found the main headquarters of the insurgent group headed by Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

In video shot by an embedded CNN cameraman, soldiers walked through an imposing building with concrete columns and with a large sign in Arabic on the wall reading "Al Qaeda Organization" and "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger."

Inside the building, U.S. soldiers found documents, old computers, notebooks, photographs and copies of the Quran.

Al-Zarqawi last month renamed his group al-Qaida in Iraq, and his followers have been blamed for a number of deadly bombings and beheadings of foreign hostages, including three Americans and a Briton. The United States has offered a \$25 million reward for his capture or killing — the same amount as for Osama bin Laden.

In neighboring Jordan, authorities detained al-Zarqawi's nephew near the border with Iraq, a distant relative and a clergyman close to the family said Thursday. The clergyman and the relative, both of whom spoke on condition of anonymity, said security officials had informed the family that Mohammed al-Harashesh was the last man to see the relative said al-Harashesh was being questioned on suspicion of attempting to infiltrate into Iraq to join his militant unit.

After the seizure, U.S. Marine commander in Iraq said the U.S.-led offensive launched last week in Fallujah has "broken the back of the insurgency" by seiz-



U.S. servicemembers search a car in Sadr City, Baghdad, on Thursday.

ing their main base of operations.

"We feel right now that we have, as I mentioned, broken the back of the insurgency. We've taken away this safe haven," Lt. Gen. John Sattler told reporters at the Pentagon in a video teleconference from Fallujah.

Sattler's conclusion was far more optimistic than an assessment made shortly before the offensive by Marine intelligence officers, who said the insurgency would rebound if U.S. troop levels in the area were significantly reduced after the offensive.

Sattler cautioned, however, that insurgents remained a threat. A group attacked U.S. Marines and Iraqi government forces from a house inside Fallujah on Thursday, killing one Marine

and one Iraqi soldier, Sattler said. One Marine and one Iraqi soldier also were wounded.

Sattler said the total U.S. death toll so far in the Fallujah offensive, which began Nov. 7, stands at 51, with 425 wounded in action.

Also, insurgents detonated a car bomb near a U.S. military convoy in Baghdad and a roadside bomb exploded at a job recruiting center in the northern city of Kirkuk in attacks that killed four people, police and officials said.

The Baghdad attack occurred near the Yarmouk police station as a U.S. armored vehicle drove by, police Capt. Ahmed Shihab said. Two people were killed and five wounded by the blast, he said. The U.S. military had no immediate information on casual-

ties.

The Kirkuk attack killed two civilians and injured three others, said Gen. Anwar Mohammed Amin with the Iraqi National Guard. Kirkuk is 180 miles north of Baghdad.

Insurgents also fired 10 mortar rounds at the provincial administration offices in the northern city of Mosul, wounding four of the governor's guards, authorities said. Gov. Duraid Kashmoula was unhurt in the attack, spokesman Lt. Col. Paul Hastings said.

Initial reports said the rounds landed near a fuel truck, setting it ablaze, Hastings said.

The rest of Mosul, Iraq's third largest city with more than 1 million residents, remained calm for a second day since the U.S.-led of-

fensive operation began Tuesday to wrest control of the western part of the city from insurgents.

The U.S. military said as many as 2,500 U.S. and Iraqi troops met "little resistance" during operations to re-secure police stations and key bridges in Mosul from the insurgents.

Iraqi authorities have acknowledged that al-Zarqawi, along with other Fallujah insurgent leaders, escaped from the rebel bastion west of Baghdad where he was based before American troops moved in.

Early Thursday, U.S. troops encountered intense rocket-propelled grenade attacks in Fallujah, said Lt. Col. Pete Newell, a commander in Task Force 22, 1st Infantry Division. The Americans returned heavy fire.

Afterward, troops walked through the area, which contained dozens of destroyed buildings and fox holes where they believed insurgents fled when the bombing in the area started.

Some of the papers found by U.S. soldiers in the building bore Saddam Hussein's picture. Soldiers also found a ski mask and several bags of sodium nitrate, which can be used in making explosives, in other areas.

While U.S. and Iraqi forces have retaken insurgent strongholds in Fallujah and Mosul, violence continues to erupt in Sunni Muslim-dominated areas of Iraq.

The Iraqi government, meanwhile, warned that Islamic clerics who incite violence will be considered to be "participating in terrorism," and it said a number of clerics already have been arrested.

Associated Press Military Writer Robert Burns in Washington contributed to this report.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday at least 1,214 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 944 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said as of Wednesday. The figures include deaths of military civilians.

The AP count matches the Defense Department's tally as of Wednesday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths: Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,076 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 835 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army 1st Lt. Luke C. Wullenwaber, 24, Leviston, Idaho, killed Tuesday when an explosive detonated near his military vehicle in Khaldiyyah, Iraq; assigned to 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Greaves, Korea.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Marshall H. Caddy, 27, Nags Head, N.C.; died Tuesday in a vehicle accident in Khaldiyyah, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Greaves, Korea.

■ Army Pfc. Jose Ricardo Flores-Mejia, 21, Santa Clara, Calif.; died Tuesday when an explosive hit his convoy in Mosul, Iraq; assigned to 25th Transportation Company, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

■ Army Spc. Daniel James McConnell, 27, Duluth, Minn.; died Tuesday in a vehicle accident in Kirkuk, Iraq; assigned to 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

■ Army Pfc. Isiah R. Hunt, 20, Green Bay, Wis.; died Monday in a vehicle accident in Baghdad, Iraq; assigned to 782nd Main Support Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. George J. Payton, 20, Culver City, Calif.; killed Sunday in

Anbar province, Iraq; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Army Pfc. Cole W. Larsen, 19, Canyon Country, Calif.; died Saturday in a vehicle accident in Baghdad, Iraq; assigned to 272nd Military Police Company, 21st Theater Support Command, Mannheim, Germany.

Killed Monday in Anbar province, Iraq:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Jeremy A. Ailes, 22, Gilroy, Calif.; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Travis R. Desiato, 19, Bedford, Mass.; assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Shane E. Kielion, 23, La Vista, Neb.; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. William L. Miller, 22, Pearland, Texas; assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Sgt. Rafael Peralta, 25, San Diego; assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

■ Marine Capt. Patrick Marc R. Rapp, 34, St. Augustine, Fla.; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Cpl. Marc T. Ryan, 25, Gloucester, N.J.; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Antoine D. Smith, 22, Orlando, Fla.; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. James E. Swain, 20, Kokomo, Ind.; assigned to Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Cpl. Lance M. Thompson, 21, Upland, Ind.; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.



From left, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper, Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Michael Hagee and the ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee, Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo., talk before the start of Wednesday's House Armed Services Committee hearing in Washington.

# Services tell Congress fight in Iraq needs more funding

BY ESTHER SCHRADER  
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Continued fighting in Iraq is straining U.S. forces nearly to the breaking point, even as the Pentagon pumps more than \$5.8 billion per month into sustaining its forces there, the chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines told Congress on Wednesday.

In testimony to the House

Armed Services Committee, the service chiefs said the military would need considerably more money for Iraq over the next year. The chiefs of the Army and Marines in particular stressed the increasing difficulty of recruiting and retaining soldiers, and then equipping them for combat.

"Make no mistake, today we are at war," Gen. Michael W. Hagee, commandant of the Marine Corps, told lawmakers. "And we should not make the mistake of thinking this war will end in a year or two."

The Marine Corps is spending about \$300 million per month on the missions in Iraq or Afghanistan, Hagee said, and is deploying its forces on a new "one to one" ratio of seven months deployed to seven months home, and then another seven-month deployment.

In the past, Marines were accustomed to a "one to three" tempo, being deployed for six months, allowed to remain at their home base for 18 months before they could be expected to set said again, Hagee said.

In the last year, as the insurgency in Iraq has grown, "the demand on the force has increased exponentially," Hagee said. "This demand is especially telling in the strain on our Marines, their families, and on our equipment and material stocks."

The Corps has activated "approximately 99 percent of selective Marine Corps reserves" to meet deployment needs, Hagee said.

As for equipment, approximately 43 percent of the Marines' ground equipment and 25 percent of aviation equipment is deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, Hagee said, adding \$8 billion to \$10 billion in extra maintenance costs to the service's budget.

For the Army, which has 110,000 soldiers serving in Iraq — five times as many troops as the Marine Corps — the strain is particularly acute, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker said.

Overall, with 145,000 reserve component soldiers mobilized, the Army now has 640,000 to 650,000 soldiers on active duty, which is 25,000 soldiers more than Congress has authorized the active force, Schoomaker said.

Moreover, the service is not only prosecuting its largest, most extended war since Vietnam, it is also doing a 180-degree reorganization into smaller, more independent formations.

To do both Iraq and transforming at the same time is "like turning a car while the engine is running," Schoomaker said.

A top priority for the Army is increasing the number of "Democrats" in Iraq, Schoomaker said, "but it's been a moving target," because the requirements keep increasing.

The service now has about 5,600 armored Humvees in Iraq, with a goal of having 8,600 by next year, Schoomaker said. The service has also made the decision to arm all of its vehicles in that country, he said, mostly with add-on kits that manufacturers are now rac-

ing to turn out by the thousands.

The Army has also sent more than 400,000 sets of body armor to its forces in Iraq, but needs 373,000 more this year, Schoomaker said.

The service needs so many sets of armor because it is responsible for providing the equipment to all U.S. military and civilian government forces in both Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as Iraqi security services and coalition partners.

The Army has also scrapped its former practice of "swapping out" protective equipment at staging areas in Kuwait from departing units to those about to go into Iraq, Schoomaker said.

Instead, the Army's goal now is to provide advanced body armor to units before they leave the United States, so troops can train and become accustomed to the gear, the four-star chief said.

The Army is also rushing to provide its troops with 41,600 more radios, 33,500 M-4 carbines and 25,000 machine guns, and to repair thousands of tactical wheeled vehicles, Schoomaker said.

"I'm talking about quite a large-scale effort," he told the committee.

The Air Force also is feeling the strain, Gen. John P. Jumper, chief of staff of the Air Force, told lawmakers.

Right now, there are 30,000 airmen deployed to 16 bases in Southwest and Central Asia, Jumper said, and the high deployment tempo has forced service officials to "reset deployment time from 90 days to 120 days."

Meanwhile, about 20 percent of the Air Force, airmen whose skills are in very high demand, such as security forces, are often deployed for 180 days and as long as one year, Jumper said.

In order to assist the Army with its skills shortages, about 2,000 airmen have been trained by soldiers and are doing truck convoy duty over in Iraq as well, Jumper said.

Committee members expressed their concerns regarding the strains on both troops and equipment.

"It's obvious our people are tired, and we're wearing out our equipment at a faster rate," Democrat Skeelton of Mississippi, the ranking minority member of the committee, said. "We're at the breaking point on equipment."

Considering the tempo of operations in Iraq, especially lately, the strains are understandable, Skelton said.

But "what's not understandable is our inability to address this issue before it becomes a real crisis," he said. "We've got to be honest. Our servicemembers and families should be sure to have the necessary forces" to complete their missions.

Stripes reporter Lisa Burgess contributed to this report.

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## IN THE STATES

## Celebration marks opening of Clinton library

BY DAVID HAMMER  
The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Top Clinton administration officials, both Presidents Bush, rock stars and ordinary admirers of Bill Clinton turned out Thursday to pay homage to the former president at the opening of the Clinton Presidential Center.

An estimated 30,000 guests were on hand for the dedication of the \$165 million glass-and-steel home of artifacts and documents gathered during Clinton's eight years in the White House.

Clinton, President Bush, and former presidents George H.W. Bush and Jimmy Carter took the stage together while the U.S. Air Force Concert Band played "Hail to the Chief." Their wives took the stage moments earlier.

"Welcome to Little Rock, Arkansas, the first capital that President Clinton called home. Thank you for being a part of this special celebration," said Skip Rutherford, president of the foundation that built the riverfront library, as he opened a ceremony that also was to feature remarks by Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and music by U2's Bono and The Edge.

But the true star was Clinton, whose library collection consists of more than 80 million presidential items. Clinton has promised to give scholars early access to previously private policy advice and other documents he isn't required to release until 2006.



From left, former first lady Rosalynn Carter, former President Jimmy Carter, former first lady Barbara Bush, former President George H. W. Bush, first lady Laura Bush, President George W. Bush, Chelsea Clinton, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and former President Bill Clinton watch from under umbrellas at the William J. Clinton Presidential Center during opening ceremonies in Little Rock, Ark., on Thursday.

Wet bleachers and lengthy security lines Thursday morning did little to squelch the enthusiasm of thousands waiting to attend.

Sister Judith Dalesandro was among four nuns who came to the event from a Roman Catholic convent in Jonesboro.

"Bill Clinton is the best president we've ever had in the United States," said Sister Dalesandro, who taught school in Little Rock when Clinton was Arkansas governor. "He was wonderful."

Before the official dedication ceremony, trumpeter Phil Driscoll played "America," several Arkansas musicians performed and Rita Dove, who Clinton appointed as the first black U.S. poet laureate in 1993, read her poem "This Life."

"The building opens to the public Friday. Visitors can peruse the library's 14 alcoves detailing aspects of Clinton's Oval Office years — one of which is dedicated to scandal.

## What to see there...

The Associated Press

Visitors to the Clinton presidential library in Little Rock, Ark., should allow at least two hours for a visit, according to library director David Alsobrook. For their \$7 admission fee, they'll see:

■ A presidential timeline that highlights Clinton's eight years in office. The first panel features a quote from Clinton's first inaugural address: "There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America."

■ Fourteen alcoves that highlight significant themes from Clinton's presidency. One discusses "The Fight For Power," and places Whitewater and Monica Lewinsky with the president's policy battles with the GOP.

■ Extended treatment of Clinton's peace efforts in Northern Ireland, the Balkans and the Middle East, and his efforts to mend race relations in America.

■ Scores of gifts Clinton received in his world travels. The cultural significance of many artifacts, many with unique craftsmanship, would make them suitable for any museum, not necessarily one dedicated to Clinton's presidency.

■ A replica of the Oval Office, down to the collection of military medals Clinton gathered during visits to bases and forts worldwide.

## Reviewer: Public 'defenseless' against FDA-approved drugs

BY DIEDTRA HENDERSON  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The American public is "virtually defenseless" if another medication such as Vioxx proves to be unsafe after it is approved for sale, a U.S. government drug safety reviewer told a congressional committee Thursday.

"I would argue that the FDA as currently configured is incapable of protecting America against another Vioxx," said David Graham, who warned that the arthritis drug had been linked to an increased risk of heart attack and stroke.

He told the Senate Finance Committee that there were at

least five other drugs on the market today that should be looked at seriously to see whether they should remain there. He cited the acne drug Accutane, the weight loss drug Meridia, the anti-cholesterol drug Crestor, the pain reliever Bextra, and the asthma drug Serenect.

Vioxx's maker, Merck and Co., pulled the drug from the market on Sept. 30 after a study indicated the popular painkiller doubled the risk of heart attacks and stroke when taken for longer than 18 months.

Raymond V. Gilmartin, the company president, said in prepared testimony that Merck acted within four days of learning about the risk.

"Given the availability of alternative therapies and the questions raised by the data withdrawing Vioxx was consistent with an ethic that has driven Merck actions and decisions for more than 100 years," he said.

Gilmartin also said the company was surprised by the cardiovascular risk because it differed from past clinical trials.

Graham said his research helped to coax the FDA to withdraw a number of drugs including Fen-phen, a weight loss drug, Lotronex, Baycol and Rezulin.

"During my career I have recommended the market withdrawal of 12 drugs," he said. "Only two of these remain on the market today."



Convicted serial killer Coral Eugene Watts is escorted out of court by Oakland County deputies after a guilty verdict in his murder trial on Wednesday in Pontiac, Mich.

## Killer set for release sent back to prison for murder

The Associated Press

PONTIAC, Mich. — Cheering and hugging, victims' relatives celebrated after a jury convicted a confessed serial killer of stabbing a 36-year-old woman to death in a Detroit suburb.

The case was brought by prosecutors in a desperate bid to keep Coral Eugene Watts from getting out of prison in less than two years.

Watts had received immunity for 12 killings — 11 in Texas and one in Michigan — as part of a 1982 deal with Texas prosecutors that led to a 60-year sentence for burglary with intent to murder.

But mandatory release laws and an appeals court ruling lapsed more than 35 years off his sentence.

He was due to be released from a Texas prison in April 2006, but Watts now faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole for the death of Helen Dutcher in 1979.

Victims and family members flashed smiles in the courtroom Wednesday after Watts, 51, was led away in shackles.

Defense attorney Ronald Kaplowitz said it would be up to Watts whether to appeal. He described his client's reaction to the verdict as "quiet resignation."

## Officials: Possible new mad cow case found

BY JOHN HEILPRIN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A second case of mad cow disease may have turned up in the United States but the suspect meat has not entered the food chain, Agriculture Department officials said Thursday.

The officials released few details and refused to say where the possibly diseased animal was found. They said it would be four to seven days before more could be confirmed, a delay that livestock industry representatives

said would cause turmoil in the beef market.

Mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, attacks an animal's nervous system. People who eat food contaminated with BSE can contract a rare disease that is nearly always fatal, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

The possible case comes 11 months after the United States had its first case of mad cow disease. Japan and other countries are still maintaining bans against U.S. beef as the result of the earlier case.

Suspicious about another case of the disease came because of an inconclusive test result, officials said.

"The inconclusive result does not mean we have found another case of BSE in this country," said Andrea Morgan, associate deputy administrator of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

She said the inconclusive results "are a normal component of screening tests, which are designed to be extremely sensitive so they will detect any sample that could possibly be positive."



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# Report on 9/11 compensation released

BY CHRISTOPHER LEE  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The federal compensation for victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks could have been distributed more fairly and efficiently if equal payouts had been given to all families instead of basing awards on factors such as the victim's age and potential lost income, according to the fund's administrator.

Kenneth Feinberg, special master of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001, said that the varying sizes of individual awards, required by Congress, led to "finger-pointing" among victims and a sense that officials were placing a higher value on some lives than on others. It also greatly complicated the task of calculating compensation for those who suffered losses after

## Payment method criticized for placing unfair value on lives

terrorists slammed airplanes into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in rural Pennsylvania, he said.

"I had the firefighter's widow saying to me, 'Mr. Feinberg, why am I getting a million dollars less than the stockbroker's husband, who was pushing a pencil on the 103rd floor and my husband died a hero? I must be missing something,'" Feinberg said in an interview Tuesday.

"And it fueled the divisiveness which was inevitable when the statute required different amounts for everybody."

Feinberg, who released his final report Wednesday, stressed that he believes the overall program was a great success. His sentiments about uniform, or

"flat," awards are personal observations, he said, not official conclusions. He also noted that the fairness and feasibility of any flat-award system would depend on the size of the awards and the extent to which accepting the compensation restricts the recipient's right to sue in court.

"I think a flat system is better; but you cannot, I think, create a fair and equitable flat-payment system unless you address somehow the questions of how much [the payment is] and are you curtailing the right to litigate?" Feinberg said in an interview. "If the flat payment is too small, you'll litigate."

Congress established the fund shortly after the attacks as part of legislation that provided billions of dollars to struggling airlines and protected the industry from

potentially crippling lawsuits. People who sought compensation from the fund were required to waive their right to sue but in return received money sooner and with greater certainty than they would have through legal action.

Congress required that the awards be based on individual circumstances, a design that mirrored the civil justice system and, lawmakers believed, made the fund a more attractive option to victims who would otherwise choose to sue.

John Coffee, a professor at Columbia Law School, said a flat-award system would have prompted more victims to sue, creating more delays, and, ultimately, leaving some deserving people with nothing. Tailored awards have more appeal, he said.

"I don't know why someone who has got six children and would have had 40 more years in which to earn money to support them, why that person should get the same award as someone who is 72 and was already retired," Coffee said. "I do see why some individualization of the award to each victim's circumstances is necessary if the system is going to be perceived as equitable and just."

The fund paid out its first claim on Aug. 22, 2002, and its final payment is expected in the next few weeks. In all, more than \$7 billion went to the survivors of 2,880 people who were killed and to 2,680 people who were injured in the attacks or the rescue efforts that followed, according to the report.

Families of the people killed collected awards averaging more than \$2 million, and the injured drew payouts averaging almost \$400,000.



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# Study: Ability to run key to human evolution

By **BYRN NELSON**  
Newsday

As sprinters, even elite human athletes would be left in the dust by galloping horses, greyhounds and pronghorn antelopes. Our largely overlooked success as endurance runners, however, may be key to our early anatomical evolution, according to a new review of past research.

"We're very odd runners," said Daniel Lieberman, one of the study's co-authors and a biologist-

## Tendons, posteriors have given humans leg up on competition throughout time

anthropologist at Harvard University. "But we do it really well. We're actually designed to do it."

The ability to run marathons makes us unique among primates and can render other animals mere also-rans, according to evidence gathered by Lieberman and University of Utah biologist Dennis Bramble that will be published Thursday in the journal *Nature*.

Some studies have suggested well-conditioned humans can outrun even horses over extremely long distances.

A wide range of features in the human body, including our long Achilles tendons, large joints, long legs, narrow waist, balanced head and ample buttocks all have given us a leg up on the competition.

Fossil evidence suggests these assets may have arisen as early as 2 million years ago, perhaps allowing our early *Homo habilis* or *Homo erectus* ancestors to reach food before competitors such as hyenas, or to chase down prey until it dropped from exhaustion.

This added source of protein and fat, Lieberman and others speculate, might have provided

the energy for yet more anatomical changes: larger bodies, smaller guts and bigger brains.

The mechanics of running are akin to the flexing and rebounding of springs, a motion dependent on tendons in our legs and feet. Chief among these spring-like tendons is the Achilles, developed in humans and in many other primates.

"There's no reason to have those springs if you're not a runner," he said. "Just the Achilles tendon alone is unquestionable evidence for running."

In the body's lower half, large joints act as shock absorbers to cushion impact when a runner's heel hits ground. And our, um, rather large rear ends? "It's one of our most distinctive characteristics," Lieberman said. "If you look at a chimp, it's got a tiny rear end."

As Stony Brook University anatomical specialist William Jungers put it, "It's no coincidence that in chimpanzees, the same muscle is called gluteus superficialis, and in humans, it's called gluteus maximus."

When we walk, these muscles serve little purpose. When we run, however, our trunk, chest and head lean forward. Without counterbalance, Lieberman said, we'd topple over.

Unlike chimpanzees and many other animals, we also have the capacity to breathe through our mouths as we run.

"All this hot air is rushing out and helping to cool you," Lieberman said. "It's like panting." Our relative lack of hair and ability to sweat also help dissipate built-up body heat, which is critical to being able to run for an extended time.

So how did all this help our ancestors?

"Imagine you're a hungry *Homo erectus*," Lieberman said. "You see vultures in the distance." Their hovering suggests the presence of a fresh kill, perhaps by lions.

"When the lions leave, there will certainly be bones full of marrow," he said, and perhaps other morsels. "If you just walk over there, there will be nothing left. But if you run, as we show, then probably you can beat the hyenas."

Several studies suggest human runners compare favorably to animals such as hyenas, horses and hunting dogs in maintaining a reasonable speed over long distances. With existing fossil evidence, Lieberman and Bramble also compiled more than two dozen body features that may have arrived as early as 2 million years ago to buttress endurance running.

The available evidence should comfort less-than-leet-footed marathoners with the knowledge that they could likely beat any chimp or hyena.

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# Radiocarbon dating raises questions

## S.C. dig could be evidence humans lived in North America earlier than believed

BY AMY GEIER EDGAR

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, South Carolina — A leading archaeologist says he has discovered what could be solid evidence that humans lived in North America tens of thousands of years earlier than is commonly believed.

University of South Carolina archaeologist Al Goodyear said Wednesday he has uncovered a layer of charcoal from a possible hearth or fire pit at a site near the Savannah River.

Samples from the layer have been laboratory-dated to more than 50,000 years old. Yet Goodyear stopped short of declaring it proof of the continent's earliest human occupation.

Since the 1960s, anthropologists have generally accepted that

hunters migrated to North America about 13,000 years ago over a land bridge into Alaska following the retreat of Ice Age glaciers.

But other sites, including the Topper dig in South Carolina, have yielded rough stone tools and other artifacts suggesting that humans lived in North America thousands of years earlier when the climate was much colder.

But a 50,000-year-old fire pit would scorch the prevailing occupation theory.

Goodyear's evidence was examined by other scientists, who performed radiocarbon tests on samples to determine their age.

However, he made his initial case for the fire pit Wednesday in a news conference, rather than publishing the data in a scientific journal edited by other researchers.

Thomas Stafford, director of Stafford Laboratories in Boulder, Colorado, then took samples of the substance for tests at the University of California at Irvine.

The results showed that wood varieties had been burned in a low-temperature fire at least 50,300 years ago, he said.



University of South Carolina archaeologist Albert Goodyear holds a "chisel-like" tool which was found at the Topper dig site in Allendale County, S.C., on Wednesday.

## Magazine 'has-beens'

NEW PALTZ, N.Y. — Mad magazine is declaring that Jason West's 15 minutes of fame are over.

The New Paltz mayor who's been in the headlines repeatedly since marrying more than two dozen gay couples in February is included in Mad's December issue, featuring the "latest batch of has-beens."

West joins the likes of Scott Peterson's former mistress Amber Frey and Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Smarty Jones.

## Math skills questioned

WASHINGTON — The national test of student math skills is filled with easy questions, raising doubts about recent gains in achievement tests, a study contends.

On the eighth-grade version of the test, almost 40 percent of the questions address skills taught in first or second grade, according to the report by Tom Loveless, director of the Brown Center on Education Policy at The Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank.

The central fault, Loveless contends, is that too many problem-solving questions rely on whole numbers, with too few challenges involving fractions, decimals and percentages.

## Calif. housing costs

SACRAMENTO, California — A fourth of all Californians are thinking about moving — either out of state or just to another town — to bring down their housing costs, a new survey shows.

High rents and rising home prices have residents, particularly younger ones, mulling the value of the mountain views and ocean shores they say they treasure. Of the respondents under 35, for example, nearly half say they might relocate to somewhere cheaper.

Sixty percent of the respondents worry their children won't be able to buy homes in their part of the state.

From The Associated Press



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- 24 NOVEMBER: AVIANO COMMISSARY ITALY, DARMSTADT COMMISSARY GERMANY, ROTA COMMISSARY SPAIN, VILSECK COMMISSARY GERMANY, YOKESKA COMMISSARY JAPAN, ANDERSEN COMMISSARY GUAM

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# Hospital mistakes a growing concern

BY CECI CONNOLLY  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Americans are increasingly worried about dangerous — even deadly — mistakes in hospitals, but an overwhelming majority say the solution lies in easy-to-read, published safety report cards, not more medical lawsuits, a national survey released Wednesday found.

Five years after the Institute of Medicine issued a landmark report on widespread, preventable deaths in U.S. hospitals, the new poll shows confidence in the healthcare system has declined and pressure to reform it has grown.

More than half of 2,000 adults surveyed say they are dissatisfied with the quality of health care, up from 44 percent in 2000. At the same time, 92 percent said reporting of medical errors should be mandatory, according to the poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation,

the Harvard School of Public Health and the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Despite enormous frustration, few people indicated a desire to use the courts as recourse, calling into question policymakers' renewed interest in malpractice legislation, said Harvard pollster Robert Blendon.

"They do not view the malpractice system as the way to resolve these problems," he said. "They would like the medical errors reported by a public agency, have the agency release it and then have it printed in some kind of Consumer Reports, and then they can go somewhere else" for care.

About one-third of those surveyed said either they or a family member had experienced a medical error, yet only 11 percent of them said they had sued for malpractice. By much larger margins, respondents favored remedies such as suspending the license of a doctor or nurse who makes medical errors.

# Massachusetts wedded bliss

## Gay couples enjoy joys of married life year after ruling

BY JENNIFER PETER  
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Since the highest court in Massachusetts declared that the state constitution guarantees gays the right to marry, it's the intangible joys — not the material benefits — that newlyweds say they savor.

While marriage entitles gay couples to state financial protections and familial rights, many instead talk about a feeling of acceptance.

"I've been called 'Mrs.,'" said Gail Leondar-Wright, who married Betsy, her partner of 13 years, on May 23. "None of us ever thought we would be called a 'Mrs.'"

Rod and Lindel Hart revel in the simple act of checking off the "married" box on applications, even on federal forms that do not recognize their union.

"I will never, ever check the 'single' box again," said Rod, 31, of Greenfield.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court made the state the first to sanction same-sex marriages a year ago Thursday, and the aftershocks are evident in the daily lives of the thousands of couples who took vows they once didn't believe possible.

The effects also were evident after this year's elections, when 11 states pushed through constitutional amendments banning gay marriage, joining six others that had done so earlier. President Bush has promised to make a federal anti-gay marriage amendment a priority of his second term.

Massachusetts is also working on a new ban that would conform with the court's ruling by allowing civil unions.

According to an Associated Press review of wedding certificates publicly recorded with the state since May 17, when the court decision took effect, at least 21 certificates have been filed by same-sex couples.

In April 2001, seven gay and les-



Tanya McCloskey, left, and Marsha Kadish of Malden, Mass., were one of the first gay couples to legally wed in the United States. It was a year ago Thursday that the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the state constitution guaranteed same-sex couples the right to marry.

## Paper anniversary

It's been one year since the Massachusetts high court ruled that gays have the right to marry in the state.

Since the decision took effect, nearly 3,000 certificates have been filed by same-sex couples.

Here comes the bride: While it entitles them to rights and protections, many gay married couples emphasize a feeling of acceptance.

Can it last? Massachusetts lawmakers have a new gay-marriage ban in the works that would conform with the court's ruling by allowing civil unions. It won lawmakers' approval this year, but must be approved in a consecutive session before it's submitted to voters in 2006.

— The Associated Press

bian couples who were denied marriage licenses in Massachusetts filed suit challenging the state's gay marriage ban. Two and a half years later, a deeply divided Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court found there was "no rational reason" for such a ban under the state's constitution and ordered the state to start allowing

gays to marry six months later.

"It feels good that there's somewhere in the United States where it's not a big deal," said Brenda Henson, 59, of Centerville, Miss., who married Wanda, her partner of 20 years, earlier this year in Massachusetts.

"They welcomed us with open arms."

# House debates \$800B debt-limit increase

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats and Republicans clashed over deficits and tax cuts Thursday as Congress moved toward sending President Bush an \$800 billion boost in the government's debt limit.

The bill would increase the debt ceiling from its current \$7.38 trillion, marking the third massive increase. Bush took office in 2001. The government reached the cap last month, paying its bills since with investments from a civil service retirement account, which it plans to repay.

The Senate approved the legislation Wednesday by a near party line 52-44 vote. With no alternative but an unprecedented federal default, the House debated the bill Thursday and planned an evening vote.

Democrats were ready to oppose the measure en masse, saying it should have been accom-

panied by a requirement that tax cuts or new spending be paid for with budget savings. They blamed Bush's tax cuts for the relentless increase in government debt, a trend analysts expect to continue indefinitely, and noted that Republicans delayed the vote until after the Nov. 2 elections.

Republicans accused Democrats of playing politics with the issue. They blamed the recession for the red ink, said a trend analyst, and increase the debt limit would cause default, higher interest rates and an inability of the government to pay its liabilities.

The debate came as lawmakers moved toward finishing their work for the year and ending what they hope will be an abbreviated lame-duck session.

Completion of the debt limit measure would raise the government's borrowing limit to \$8.18 trillion, from \$7.38 trillion, higher than when Bush became president.

# Recount ordered in record-tight Washington governor's race

BY REBECCA COOK  
The Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Never in Washington state has a governor's race been so close.

Only 261 votes separated the two candidates after a painstaking tally that triggered an automatic recount, required whenever the margin of victory is fewer than 2,000 ballots.

For the time being, Republican Dino Rossi is out in front of Democrat Christine Gregoire. They should know by next Wednesday, — so says Secretary of State Sam Reed — who will replace outgoing Democratic Gov. Gary Locke.

A statewide recount has never reversed the outcome of an election, but Reed isn't saying that won't happen after the 2.8 million ballots are tallied — again.

"We really aren't going to know before we do this recount who the winner is going to be," Reed, a Republican who will oversee the recount, said Wednesday.

At his Bellevue campaign headquarters, Rossi told supporters he hopes to take his family on vacation during the recount, "somewhere quieter than here." He went on to thank his wife, four children, sisters, sisters and cousins. "I've got a lot of relatives," the state senator joked, "probably about 261."

Gregoire, the state attorney general, re-

assured cheering crowds in Seattle that the election isn't over.

"We're going to make sure, in this recount, every single vote counts," Gregoire vowed. "This is not about Republican or Democrat, Libertarian or Independent, this is about all of us as Washingtonians, standing up, casting our ballots."

The breathtaking closeness was reflected in Wednesday's horse race. Rossi began the day 19 votes ahead, but King County's 4 p.m. report gave Gregoire a 39-vote lead. Gregoire's lead thinned as the sun set. At 5:14 p.m., Rossi went ahead by four votes.



Rossi



Gregoire

At 5:59, Gregoire took the lead by 13 votes. Finally, at 6:33 p.m., Benton County put Rossi ahead by 261 votes.

Washington leads Democrat and has not elected a Republican governor since 1980. Presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry won the state with 53 percent of the vote; the current governor, Locke, easily defeated Republican opponents to serve two terms; and Democrats control the Legislature.

As political junkies across the country recovered from their presidential election withdrawal, they turned to the Washington governor's race for entertainment.

"It's fun, it's exciting," said Joe Arko, a retired doctor in Plano, Texas, who has followed the Washington election religiously on the Internet. "It's like a two-week play-off series. But it's a lot more important than a ball game."

## IN THE WORLD

## Iran: Iran trying to fit missiles for war

BY ALAN CLENDENNING

The Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile — The United States has intelligence indicating Iran is trying to fit missiles to carry nuclear weapons, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said.

Powell partially confirmed claims by an Iranian opposition group that Tehran is deceiving the United Nations and is attempting to secretly continue activities meant to give it atomic arms by next year.

"I have seen intelligence which would corroborate what this dissent group is saying," Powell told reporters Wednesday as he traveled to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Santiago. "And it should be of concern to all parties."

Pressed by reporters on the intelligence reports, Powell said the intelligence indicates that Iran



Sec. of State Colin Powell

"had been actively working on delivery systems" capable of carrying a nuclear weapon.

Traveling with U.S. President George W. Bush to Arkansas on Thursday, press secretary Scott

McClellan said Iran has "spent quite a bit of time over the years hiding their program and their intentions."

Powell said there is no evidence to suggest that Iran has developed the technology to make a nuclear weapon, but suggested that the regime is working to adapt missiles for nuclear warheads.

"I'm talking about information that says that they not only had these missiles, but I'm aware of information that suggests they were working hard as to how to put the two together," Powell said.

A senior official for the National Council for Resistance in Iran said Tuesday that a bomb diagram — along with an unspecified amount of weapons-grade uranium — was provided to Iran by Abdul Qadeer Khan, the disgraced former head of Pakistan's nuclear development which was tied to both Iran and Libya.

He said the designs were handed to the Iranians between 1994 and 1996, while Khan delivered HEU — highly enriched uranium — in 2001.

Banned in the United States as a terrorist organization, the group was instrumental in 2002 in revealing the enrichment program in the central city of Natanz, based on what it said was information provided by sources in Iran.

The opposition group says a facility at Lavizian-Shian northeast of Tehran was part of a secret nuclear weapons program.

Powell declined comment on Khan, but said, "For 20 years, the Iranians have been trying to hide things from the international community."

Iran says its sole interest is to generate nuclear fuel through low-level uranium enrichment, but the United States suspects Iran wants to produce weapons-grade enriched uranium.

Enrichment does not violate the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, but the International Atomic Energy Agency wants Iran to scrap enrichment plans as a confidence building measure.

Iran announced suspension of enrichment last week, and the agency said it would hold talks on commitment starting next week, in advance of a Nov. 25 IAEA board meeting.

The pledge reduced Washington's hopes of having the board refer Iran to the U.N. Security Council for alleged violations of the Nonproliferation Treaty.

Tehran has not dropped plans to run 50,000 centrifuges to enrich uranium for what it says will be a nuclear reactor to be finished next year. It currently possesses less than 1,000 centrifuges. But if it added 500 centrifuges, experts say Iran would be able to make enough weapons-grade uranium to make a bomb annually.

## Italy offers way out of cloning dispute

BY NICK WADHAM

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Italy has offered a compromise on human cloning that seeks common ground among U.N. member states that are sharply divided over competing treaties to ban the practice, diplomats said.

It was too early to say whether the compromise will help settle the dispute before Friday, when the U.N. General Assembly's legal committee had planned to vote on the two offers if the sides couldn't agree on one text, Belgian diplomat Marc Peccsteen said.

"We're making progress," Peccsteen told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "We need more playing with words to find the compromise we need, and I don't know if we'll have the time to get to that."

The issue of a global treaty on human cloning has exposed a stark rift in member states' attitudes. A proposal from Costa Rica would ban all human cloning, while the other, from Bel-

gium, would ban reproductive cloning but allow countries to use embryos for stem cell and other research.

The Costa Rican document has 62 co-sponsors including the United States and Italy, while the Belgian offer is supported by 22 mostly European countries. Many Muslim countries are undecided and were courted by both sides Wednesday.

The Italian offer is a modified version of an old Belgian text, Peccsteen said. He said the Italian changes were not acceptable to the Belgians, but talks were continuing.

The document, obtained by The Associated Press, calls on nations to ban attempts to create "human life" through cloning. That's a revision of the old text, which called on nations to prohibit creating "human beings" through cloning.

That change is key because it gets to the heart of the dispute over cloning. Many opponents argue that an embryo is human life, while fewer see it as a human being. This sleight of hand on the

wording could help everyone to agree on a treaty.

Peccsteen acknowledged that at this point, the sides appeared to be seeking something they could interpret how they want to.

"That's what were trying to find, a positive ambiguity that could allow both sides to live with one text," Peccsteen said.

"Unfortunately, 'human life' is not unambiguous enough in a way and that's why we have a problem with it."

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, viewed the Belgian offer favorably but said a vote on the two treaty proposals was still possible.

Either way, observers said the Italian offer may be a sign that the two sides have all but given up trying to agree and are seeking a way to save face and drop the issue.

That's because the Costa Rican and Belgian documents, if passed, would seek a world treaty on cloning. The Italian offer, on the other hand, is only a declaration outlining U.N. member states' stance and would not call for a treaty.

## Chirac, Blair downplay their strains over Iraq

The Associated Press

LONDON — French President Jacques Chirac and British Prime Minister Tony Blair sought to downplay strains in their relationship over the war in Iraq and pledged Thursday to make every effort to revitalize the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

At a joint news conference after the leaders met in London, Blair and Chirac said they saw differences over the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq would not stop them from working closely together on alleviating poverty in Africa, global warming and a host of other issues.

Chirac, an arch critic of the war, called it the "one and only" issue of sharp disagreement between the two countries, adding: "Who is right or wrong, history will tell."

The French leader also said he was "taken aback" by some comments in the French press suggesting strains between the two countries.

He said the two leaders were

on the same track when it came to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"We share the same analysis and the same goals," Chirac said, adding there was a "window of opportunity" that could lead to "more stability, political order and we should do everything we can to achieve that."

Blair, Washington's most important ally in the invasion that ousted Saddam Hussein, pressed President Bush in a meeting last week for a Middle East conference early next year and the appointment of a special envoy for the region to jump-start the peace process after Yasser Arafat's death.

A more testing subject for the two leaders has been Europe's relationship with the United States and Bush.

Blair views Britain as a diplomatic bridge between the two countries. Chirac, however, foresees the development of a multipolar world where a stronger European Union could act as a counterbalance to the United States.

## Finl's new foreign minister

ROME — Gianfranco Fini, a right-wing leader who has turned his party from Neo-Fascist to mainstream conservative, was appointed Thursday as Italy's new foreign minister.

Fini was Italy's fourth foreign minister since Premier Silvio Berlusconi took office in 2001. He replaces Franco Frattini, who has become Italy's new European commissioner.

Fini's appointment, which had been expected, was confirmed by government minister Giovanni Alemanno after a cabinet meeting in Rome. Fini and Berlusconi then went to the Quirinale presidential palace to get the approval of President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi.

The 52-year-old Fini, himself a former Neo-Fascist, has steadily remodeled his image into that of a moderate conservative.

## Alitalia flights canceled due to strike

ROME — More than 170 Alitalia flights will be canceled

Friday when air traffic controllers walk off their jobs for four hours, the Italian airline said.

The nation-wide strike was scheduled to start at noon. Alitalia said Thursday that 78 domestic flights and 94 international flights would be canceled, while several flights would be rescheduled.

## Russia accedes to Kyoto Protocol

NAIROBI, Kenya — Russia formally notified the United Nations of its acceptance of the Kyoto Protocol on global warming, starting a three-month countdown for the long-delayed pact on cutting greenhouse gas emissions to come into force.

President Vladimir Putin signed the protocol into law earlier this month, allowing it to take effect in 128 nations that ratified it, said U.N. environmental agency spokesman Eric Palt. The United States has refused to join.

On Thursday, Russia's permanent representative to the United Nations, Andrei Denisov, turned over the accession documents to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan in Nairobi, where the U.N. Security Council is holding a rare meeting outside its New York headquarters.

## Russia developing new nuclear missiles

MOSCOW — Russia is developing a new nuclear missile system unlike any weapon held by other nuclear powers, President Vladimir Putin said, in a move that could serve as a signal to the United States as Washington pushes forward with a missile defense system.

Putin gave no details about the new system and it was unclear whether Russia's cash-strapped armed forces could even afford an expensive new weapon. But he told the top leadership of Russia's armed forces that the system could be deployed soon.

ITAR-Tass indicated the new system could be a mobile version of the Topol-M ballistic missiles, which have been deployed in silos since 1988. But Alexander Flayev, a senior analyst with Moscow's Institute for Global Environment and International Relations, said Putin seemed to be referring to the new Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile that underwent its first test in September.

From The Associated Press

# Dollar reaches new low against euro

BY GEIR MOULSON

The Associated Press

BERLIN — The U.S. dollar dropped to a new all-time low against the euro Wednesday as the European currency rose to \$1.30 amid deep skepticism over Washington's commitment to a "strong dollar" policy.

Persistent worries over high oil prices and the U.S. trade and budget deficits have pushed the dollar to new depths against the 12-nation euro in recent weeks.

Last Wednesday, it rose above \$1.30 for the first time since its launch in 1999, spiking up to \$1.3007 — prompting European politicians to voice concern that the rally could hurt the continent's export-driven recovery.

The latest rise came as U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow visits Europe. At the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London, he refused to comment on the euro hitting a new high against the dollar.

Snow insisted that there had been no change in the administration's support for a strong dollar. He also reiterated the administration believes international currency markets should be left to set the dollar's value.

"We believe in open, competitive currency markets," he said.

"We think the world functions best with free trade and free capital flows. Nobody has ever devalued their way to prosperity."

Still, many analysts believe the administration has decided to show support for a strong dollar

to avoid rattling currency markets but to refrain from intervening to halt the dollar's fall since a weaker dollar will help lower the U.S. trade deficit by helping American exports.

"There is no single event that set off this movement today," said Dorothea Huttanus, an economist at DZ Bank in Frankfurt. She cited persistent doubts over the health of the U.S. economy and added that "doubts about the strong dollar policy won't go away" despite Snow's statements.

"The financial community doesn't believe him any more," Huttanus said.

The current rally has taken the euro from about \$1.20 two months ago, prompting European Central Bank President Jean-Claude Trichet to call the surge "brutal" last week. Huttanus said she expected more such verbal interventions — although no action by the bank on currency markets — should the euro continue moving toward \$1.35.

For the countries that use the euro, the stronger currency raises fears that it will snuff out their moderate, export-driven economic recovery by making exports more expensive. But it takes much of the sting out of high oil prices on the continent, since oil is priced in dollars and the strong euro makes it relatively cheaper.

The euro, launched in 1999, languished under \$1.00 for about 2½ years between 2000 and mid-2002. It is now more than 57 percent above its all-time low against the dollar of 82 cents, reached in October 2000.

# Locusts swarm into Egypt, causing havoc

BY PAUL GARWOOD

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — In an echo of the biblical plagues, millions of locusts swarmed into northern Egypt on Wednesday for the first time in 50 years, prompting authorities to order emergency pesticide spraying to protect the region's important agriculture industry.

Clouds of the red insects, up to 2½ inches long, flitted about over Cairo, while others hopped around on rooftops. By evening, the skies were clear.

Christian Pantenius, program coordinator of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization office in Egypt, said the swarm was an offshoot of a serious locust infestation in West Africa that was blown by strong winds across the Sahara. He said locusts also were spotted in Crete and Lebanon.

Pantenius said the locusts were showing no sign of moving farther south along the agricultural-

ly rich Nile River valley, and he predicted the swarm most likely would head southeast toward the Red Sea coast, which is an annual locust breeding ground between November and March.

Locusts, which normally live between two and six months, eat their weight — about 0.07 ounces — in crops every day. They can travel as much as 120 miles in a day.

"People are very afraid that it may cause damage to agricultural production, but to what extent the agricultural sector could be damaged is difficult to say," Pantenius said. Agriculture Minister Ahmed el-Leithy said the locusts appeared to pose no serious threat to Egypt's crops "because the swarms are continuing to move and are not fully grown." But he said 50 pest eradication teams had been rushed out to spray pesticides in farm areas.

Farmers without pesticides set smoky fires and made loud noises with machinery in hopes of keeping locusts away from their fields.

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## The Damned unwelcome

CAMBRIDGE, England — A clergyman has criticized a city's decision to ask an aging punk band to switch on its annual civic display of Christmas lights.

The Damned, the Rev. Stephen Leeke said Wednesday, do not really encapsulate the spirit of the season.

"I do not think they are the best people to be switching on the Christmas lights," said Leeke, vicar of St. Martin's Church in Cambridge, 50 miles north of London. "I think perhaps it would be more appropriate for them to switch them off."

"It just seems to me to be a bit of a culture clash in launching the city's Christmas celebrations with a group who really haven't been renowned with looking at the positive side of life and Christian principles," added Leeke.

The band, which sprang from London's mid-70s punk scene and released songs including "Released Child" and "Snicide," is due to switch on the town's seasonal decorations Sunday.

## A burdensome name

VILNIUS, Lithuania — Annoyed by problems he encounters daily, Jonas Jonaitis has decided that his uncommon name is providing for some decidedly common problems, and he wants to be paid for it.

In Lithuania, Jonas Jonaitis is the abstract name of choice used by dozens of banks, finance companies and others to illustrate their customer brochures and more. It's akin to the use of the name John Smith in the United States or Ivan Ivanov in Russia.

For the real Jonaitis, that's meant a lot of lost time trying to explain to cashiers and store clerks that he is who he says he is.

## Cop arrested in robbery

PATRAS, Greece — A 23-year-old policeman was arrested in southern Greece after allegedly robbing a bank and then visiting a nearby coffee shop to play a game of backgammon, authorities said Wednesday.

The officer, who was not named, was arrested Tuesday in Kato Achayia, near the southern port city of Patras, after allegedly snatching just over 5,000 euros, or \$6,500, while wearing a crash helmet. He allegedly threatened staff at a branch of the private Alpha Bank with his police handgun.

The suspect told police he had robbed the bank to pay off credit card debts, Tsionvaras said.

## Bus driver proposes

OSLO, Norway — One passenger aboard an express bus to Oslo was more surprised than the rest by the driver's announcement over the loudspeaker.

"Right behind me is a fair-haired treasure," the driver, 39-year-old Oeivind Martinsen, announced, continuing: "Jeanette, will you marry me?" The other passengers, though surprised, applauded and then quieted down to hear the response on Friday's trip from the southern town of Fredrikstad to Oslo.

When Johansen, 33, said "Yes," the busload of people burst into thunderous applause and celebration, the Oslo newspaper Dagbladet reported Monday.

From The Associated Press

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# Found artifacts keep Afghan history alive

BY THOMAS H. MAUGH II  
Los Angeles Times

More than 22,000 treasures from the Kabul Museum in Afghanistan, long thought to have been lost in the war against the Soviet Union and the subsequent cultural purge by the Taliban, have been located in bank vaults and other safe places where they were hidden by museum officials.

The priceless Bactrian gold collection, precious ivories, bronze statues and other artifacts of 5,000 years of history on the Orient's Silk Road — virtually all of the museum's most precious items — were preserved despite the devastation engulfing the country, archaeologists said Wednesday.

The discovery of the Bactrian gold was announced this summer, but a just-completed inventory revealed that virtually all of the museum's most precious items are intact, said Oxford University archaeologist Fredrik T. Hiebert.

In the midst of the resistance against the Soviets, a team of curators in the early 1980s boxed up the most valuable pieces in the museum's collection, stashing them in various vaults around Kabul, the Afghan capital. The curators used small safes, tin boxes, steel containers and anything else they could find at hand.

They then went "dead quiet," said British archaeologist Carla Grissman, keeping their knowledge to themselves even as rumors floated widely about the destruction and looting of the museum's contents.

They kept their secrets for a quarter of a century.

"These are the real heroes of this story," said Hiebert.

Hiebert was brought in this spring to catalog the gold with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Geographic Society.

Now that the artifacts have been inventoried, they have all been picked up again and stored in a once-again secret location until the government can find a new home for them.

The Kabul Museum has been restored, but security there is not sufficient to protect the artifacts. Curators hope to build a state-of-the-art museum in central Kabul, but no one is sure where the money will come from.

The Kabul Museum was a small facility housed in a 1920s-era federal building about 30 minutes outside the city center. Although it was small, Hiebert noted, "it is said that every piece [it had] was a masterpiece."

Because it straddles the Silk Road that camel caravans used to transport textiles from China to Europe and pottery, artworks and other materials in the opposite direction, Kabul was a prosperous city throughout much of civilization's early history.

As a result, the museum held objects from a string of civilizations that conquered or traveled through the region, including the Bactrians, Kushans, Greeks and Buddhists.

Unfortunately, the museum's neighborhood became a frontline in the fighting against the Soviets and the building was shelled into a windowless, roofless hulk. Many of the artifacts that had not been removed were blasted to shards.

Hiebert said the team has now found and inventoried all but about a hundred of the most valuable artifacts from the museum. They have also recreated the original cataloging system, so that they know which items are missing from the collection. Armed with that information, international authorities may be able to retrieve many of the items from dealers and collectors, he said.

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## Divorce deal for sale

**CA** LOS ANGELES — For sale. One ex-wife's \$250 million divorce judgment. All the buyer has to do is figure out how to collect from the Saudi royal family.

After battling for more than 20 years to collect the court-ordered judgment, Diana Bilinelli said she has decided to sell it — at a substantial discount — on the chance that others may have better means to track it down.

"It's a dandy investment opportunity," said her lawyer, Helen Dorobny.

Bilinelli's late ex-husband, Sheikh Mohammed al-Fassi, died in Cairo of an infected hernia in 2002 at the age of 50 after claiming he had transferred all his holdings to relatives, including Saudi King Fahd and his brother Prince Turki. According to a court ruling, he owed Bilinelli half his assets.

## Boy killer seeks retrial

**GA** ATLANTA — It was a murder that stunned the nation. Michael Lewis was 13, a boy who stood less than 5 feet tall, when he walked up to a parked car at an Atlanta convenience store in 1997 and shot a stranger dead in front of the man's two sons.

Sociologists called Lewis a "super predator." Prosecutors called the boy known as "Little B" a cold-blooded thug. At 14, Lewis was sentenced to life in prison.

Now a 21-year-old man, Lewis asked Georgia's highest court to give him a new trial, saying he is innocent and wasn't competent because of his age and mental capacity to defend himself.

## Proud to be a loser

**ME** ELLSWORTH — Call Peter Loisel a big fat loser and he'd have to agree.

Between October 2001 and July 2004, the Ellsworth Middle School math teacher lost nearly 500 pounds, and he did it without gastric bypass surgery. He dropped the pounds the old-fashioned way — with diet and exercise.

While Loisel plays down his success, he readily admits having been inconvenienced and emotionally affected by his weight. He wasn't able to be in his sister's wedding because it was impossible to find a tuxedo that fit.

These days, he's a shell of his old self. At his peak, he weighed 763 pounds. Now 6-foot-6 "Big Pete" weighs in around 270.

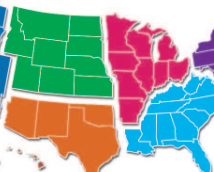
## Lawyer suspected

**WA** SEATTLE — Prosecutors charged a lawyer with attempted first-degree murder Monday in the shooting of a rival attorney who had sought a contempt citation against him.

The prosecutors said William R. Joice, 50, shot Kevin Jung in the back of the head as Jung sat in a car outside his office. A hearing on the contempt request had been scheduled later in the day.

A witness scribbled down the license plate of Joice's rented car as it squealed away from the scene, and police tracked him down through the rental company.

Jung, a 44-year-old married fa-



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

ther of two, remained in critical condition Monday. Doctors said he had serious brain damage, according to the charging documents in King County court.

## Residents sue pueblo

**NM** ISLETA PUEBLO — A group of lifelong residents are suing this Indian pueblo on the south edge of Albuquerque, challenging its determination that they or their heirs don't qualify as tribal members.

The three families involved in the suit are descendants of people who came to Isleta from another pueblo and were adopted into the community. Pueblo Gov. Alvin Lucero declined to comment.

## Burns kill woman

**CA** YUCAIPA — Raymond Gonzalez stared in the distance as he used a red bandana to wipe away the tears, recalling the moment he learned his neighbor died despite his efforts to extinguish flames that engulfed her.

Gonzalez, 81, said his 83-year-old neighbor, Janice White, was alert after he snuffed the fire with a blanket.

Gonzalez wanted to replace the blanket with a fresh one and remove a wrap she was on her head, but White told him to leave the items alone, he said.

"That's why I thought she was going to be all right," he said Tuesday.



## Rock the boat

A boat makes its way through high waves into Government Cut off Miami Beach, Fla. High winds and surf have kept most beach goers and boat traffic away.

day.  
"I feel sorry, you know."

White's clothes accidentally caught on fire Sunday morning while she was making tea, authorities said.

She suffered second- and third-degree burns over about 70 percent of her body, officials said.  
She died the next day.

## Plans for play

**NY** NEW YORK — Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced that 25 new playgrounds will be built at public schools across the city over the next five years.

The Department of Education will share the \$25 million bill with the Trust for Public Land, a nonprofit land conservation organization, Bloomberg said.

City officials said they would decide which schools receive the new playgrounds based on need, and they will likely be in low-income, high-density neighborhoods.

P.S. 180 in Harlem and I.S. 220 in Borough Park, Brooklyn, have already been selected and will have new playgrounds next fall.

The playgrounds will be open to the public after school lets out each day.

## Parakeet revival

**SC** CHARLESTON — Could the awesome and seemingly limitless power of DNA be focused on a parakeet? That question is intriguing historians who want to bring back the extinct Carolina parakeet — the only parrot species native to South Carolina.

There are still 37 egg shells from the parakeets in museums around the country. The Franklin County Historical Association in Mount Vernon, Texas, discovered last year it had a Carolina parakeet egg in its collection.

In preparing it for exhibit, the museum decided not to clean it after someone mentioned the shell could have a bit of dried DNA from blood or fluid.

"That's movies, not real life," said Jean Woods, bird curator for the Delaware Museum of Natural History.

"But on the other hand, I'm not saying it can't happen."

## Vermont loves ladies

**VT** MONTPELIER — Vermont is the best state in the nation for women, according to a new report.

The Institute for Women's Policy Research rated the 50 states based on evaluations of political, economic, social and health climates.

Although some states received higher grades than Vermont in certain categories, Vermont received its top overall ranking by consistently getting high grades across the board.

The state received an A- for reproductive rights and then grades of B or B- for women's political participation, employment and earnings, economic autonomy, and health.

Following Vermont at the top were Connecticut, Minnesota, Washington and Oregon. Mississippi was rated the worst state, receiving a grade of D- or F in each category.



## Afternoon stroll

Kathleen O'DeKirk and her dog Winston run in the park in Chicago.



## Hang time

A snowboarder grinds a rail at the Brighton terrain park in Utah.



## Taking GIs fishing

A woman waves an U.S. flag to soldiers aboard charter fishing boats in Islamorada, Fla., as they depart for a day of angling off the Florida Keys. About 60 military personnel took part in free fishing trips during the "Take a Soldier Fishing" program.





**Pardon me** Korey Foltz kneels with a turkey in Mathias, W.Va. Two turkeys from the Foltz farm were sent to the White House for the annual Thanksgiving ceremony. This is the 57th anniversary of the first National Thanksgiving Turkey presentation to President Harry Truman. After the ceremony, the turkeys will be retired to the Kidwell Farm petting zoo at Frying Pan Park.



**Peering down** A snowy owl is perched on a chimney top in Hazleton, Pa.

## Mom charged in fire

**OH** TOLEDO — The mother of six of seven children killed in an apartment fire was charged with involuntary manslaughter after investigators discovered she was visiting a neighbor at the time, a prosecutor said.

Melinda Ragland was at an apartment about 80 yards away when the blaze started, prosecutor John Weglian said.

"We believe the evidence established that she breached her duty of care for the children," Weglian said.

The children, ages 6 months to 7 years, died of smoke inhalation Oct. 24 after the fire started on a mattress in an upstairs bedroom. Investigators said a child playing with a candle, lighter or matches started the blaze. Six siblings and a cousin were killed.

Ragland could get two to 10 years in prison on each of seven counts of involuntary manslaughter if convicted. She was also charged with seven counts of child endangering, each offense punishable by one to five years behind bars.

Investigators determined that a smoke detector on the second floor was working but that an alarm on the first floor had been tampered with and did not work.

## Go, team fruit!

**WA** SEATTLE — Fans who live and breathe the rivalry between the Huskies and Cougars can now eat it up.

Yakima Valley farmer Randy Valicoff has ripened the likenesses of the teams' mascots into his apples and hopes to sell them in time for the annual football showdown between the University of Washington and Washington State University.

Branding fruit has been done before, but it's new to state football fans.

The third-generation farmer uses carefully applied logo stickers to block the sun's rays. As the apple matures, the logo appears where the sticker kept the skin from ripening.

The result: fruit bearing brilliant yellow Cougar and Husky logos.

## Restoring Poplar Forest

**VA** FOREST — The Corporation for Jefferson's Poplar Forest, which is restoring Poplar Forest, plans to buy 72 acres of land from Lynchburg's Industrial Development Authority for \$3 million to add to Thomas Jefferson's country retreat. Developers had wanted to build a shopping center on half the parcel. The 4,800-acre property left the Jefferson family's possession in the mid-1800s and was occupied as a private residence until restoration began in 1984.

## Deadly mistake

**NY** ROCHESTER — A man admitted to shooting another man to death in what police believe was a case of mistaken identity.

Michael Hernandez, 21, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of 36-year-old Torrance Thompson.

Prosecutors said Hernandez was trying to break up a fight between his girlfriend and another woman on July 10, and fired his

32-caliber pistol in the air. At the same time, Hernandez was struck in the leg by a bullet.

Hernandez went home, returned a half-hour later with his cousin and approached a crowd that had gathered around the fight scene.

Hernandez singled out Thompson, hitting him in the face with his pistol and shooting him in the stomach, authorities said. Thompson did not take part in the earlier confrontation.

## Mercury spill shutdown

**KY** HODGENVILLE — A container of liquid mercury that officials believe was taken from a dentist office trash can caused schools to be shut down in Larue County. Officials say a high school student took the container to school and spilled mercury on the bus. More of it was spilled in Larue County High School.

Officials haven't decided if the student will be punished. An EPA team from Atlanta, in full protective gear, cleaned up the mercury.

## Holiday cheer will go on

**PA** NORTH CAMBRIA — Residents and local businesses in one Cambria County borough wouldn't let vandalizing Grinches steal the launch of their Christmas season.

Residents and local businesses pledged more than \$400 to replace the lights throughout Fridman park that were vandalized. The Northern Cambria Area Business Alliance chipped in another \$250. The borough council initially canceled the celebration, but it will now go on as scheduled the day after Thanksgiving.

## School lab vandalism

**IA** IOWA CITY — Vandals dumped chemicals, damaged computers and freed research animals at the University of Iowa, officials said.

The FBI was called in to investigate the vandalism discovered at Seashore Hall and Science Laboratories.

Seashore Hall houses the university's psychology, journalism and sociology departments.

The vandalism included laboratories where research animals were housed. An undetermined number of mice and rats were missing. More than 30 computers were damaged, university officials said.

Because of uncertainty about the extent of the damage, including the deliberate dumping of chemicals, university police evacuated the building and don't expect to reopen it until after the Thanksgiving holiday break.

## Nursing home ban

**RI** PROVIDENCE — The state Health Department tentatively lifted a ban on admissions to the Haven Health Center nursing home.

The center made significant progress in correcting problems with patient care that forced the sanction in September, the department said. Problems included unclean food and poor sanitation. Nursing homes statewide are under scrutiny since a Providence nursing home closed in June because of poor management.

Stories and photos from wire services

## AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil>

## FACES

## Snoop goes deep on gridiron

Rap artist Snoop Dogg donned football gloves and a red University of Southern California sweat suit to run through drills with the top-ranked Trojans football team.



Snoop Dogg

Snoop, whose real name is Calvin Broadus, had a 40-yard pass from quarterback Matt Leinart hit him in the hands Tuesday, but he couldn't hold the ball.

"Ain't nobody sticking me, that's why I dropped it," the rapper jokingly told players who teased him.

Snoop also participated in a few football drills, knocking down dummies and running over obstacles.

The rap artist has coached his son's youth football team and is a former player himself.

He appeared at practice a day after a fight broke out near the stage of the Vibe Awards. Snoop and producer Quincy Jones were about to honor rapper Dr. Dre when a melee broke out and one person was stabbed.

## Stone to be honored in Stockholm

Oliver Stone will receive a lifetime achievement award at the Stockholm International Film Festival, which celebrates its 55th anniversary this week.

Starting Thursday, the festival will showcase 170 movies from more than 40 countries, most made by young independent filmmakers.

"We look for films that are innovative, that bring the cinematic medium forward somehow," festival director Gert Scheynius said. "We look for young people, and we look for films that touch the audience."

Stone's new film, "Alexander," will have its European premiere at the festival. The story of Alexander, said the Great Stars Colin Farrell as Alexander and Angelina Jolie as Alexander's mother, Olympias.

The year's candidates for the Bronze Horse, the festival's top award, include Zach Braff's "Garden State," Hong Kong filmmaker Yan Mak's "Butterfly" and "Primer," a low-budget thriller by Shane Carruth, which won the grand jury prize at this year's Sundance Film Festival.



Stone

## Franklin plays presidential opening

Aethra Franklin sang with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, performing her hits, including "Respect" and "Chain of Pools," in advance of the opening of former President Clinton's library.

The full house that turned out at Robinson Auditorium applauded enthusiastically Tuesday night for Franklin, who told The Associated Press that she was fond of Clinton for his humanitarian work.

"It's my impression that he cares about people and he cares about all people," the singer said.

Clinton and other dignitaries will attend the Clinton Presidential Center dedication ceremony Thursday. The center opens to the public Friday.

Franklin also said she's thankful that Clinton gave her the National Medal of Arts while he was president.

"It's unquestionably one of the highest points of my career," she said. "And so I'm most thankful as an artist."

## Elway, Jon Bon Jovi meet again

John Elway and Jon Bon Jovi are at it again.

The Hall of Fame quarterback and the rocker, both owners of Arena Football League teams, have joined the cast of NBC's "Las Vegas" for a second NFL movie short, "Rumble in the Montecito."

The short, the second starring Elway and Bon Jovi, will be shown nationwide in 430 theaters next month.

Elway's Colorado Crush and Bon Jovi's Philadelphia Soul meet in a game on the set of Las Vegas' fictional Montecito Resort & Casino in a sequel to last year's "Rumble in the House."

"Las Vegas" actors Josh Duhamel, Nikki Cox and James Lesure are featured.



Bon Jovi



## With release of her first greatest hits album, Shania Twain reflects on her career, critics

BY JOHN GEROME

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A car full of dudes. Radio blaring. Annoying guy in the back singing off-key to Shania Twain's "Man, I Feel Like a Woman" while his buddies look seriously uncomfortable.

Twain, who recently co-hosted Country Music Association awards with Brooks & Dunn, hasn't seen the Chevy commercial, but she's heard about it — and laughs at the thought.

She's the first to admit her songs have a strong female perspective. But it's far more than women who are buying her records by the millions and filling arenas for her concerts.

"It's girls, boys, men, women, grandparents, everybody," Twain says. "I don't know why that is. They all relate to it somehow. I think they relate to the sense of humor of it. It's not straight-ahead female empowerment. Men relate to it because it's got a sense of humor."

Twain's new album, a greatest hits package, came out Nov. 9, the same day at her CMA appearance. If it follows course, it will be a huge success. Her last three albums have topped the 10 million mark, with 1999's "Come On Over" reaching 20 million and placing her among music's elite.

Only a handful of acts — none of them country, not even Garth Brooks — have had bigger-selling albums.

"As a country artist, she is in a bit of a category by herself," said Wade Jessen, a chart director for Billboard magazine. "In terms of radio and video exposure, Shania is a bona fide signed, sealed and delivered crossover artist."

Dressed casually in a blue, green and white striped sweater with black pants and boots, Twain, 39, sips hot tea during an interview.

She's polite, offering refreshments to a guest, and candid, answering pointed questions without flinching.

She's unabashed in her pursuit of commercial success. She and her husband, producer extraordinaire Robert John "Mutt" Lange, approach each song as a potential radio hit. Artistic expression is fine and good, but only if it's commercially viable.

"We only write songs that we think are worthy of being hits, of being on the radio," Twain says. "We work very hard to make every song like that."

To reach every demographic, they often record two versions of the same song, one country-flavored, maybe with fiddles or steel guitars, and the other pop-oriented.

Her music has become a staple on country, pop and adult contemporary stations. Her latest single, "Party for Two," one of three new songs on the greatest hits album, went to country radio as a duet with country newcomer Billy Currington and to pop radio as a duet with Sugar Ray frontman Mark McGrath.

"It just keeps us in the pattern of my career so far, going all the way back to 'That Don't Impress Me Much' and 'Man, I Feel Like a Woman,'" she said. "If you've got that kind of versatility, why not have fun with it? We have that diverse fan base, and it's great to be able to explore that."

Twain, who grew up poor in Ontario, Canada, almost always speaks in the plural when discussing her career, a nod to Lange's involvement.

A South Africa native, Lange had produced top-selling albums by Def Leppard, AC/DC, Foreigner, the Cars and Bryan Adams before he and Twain crossed paths.

After seeing a video she made for her self-titled debut album (the lowest seller of her career by far) he traveled to Nashville to meet her. They married in 1993, and he has been her collaborator and partner ever since. Together, they co-write all of her songs.

Early on, the relationship raised questions about her talent, fueled in part by her decision not to tour in support of her second album, "The Woman in Me" (she now says that she didn't have enough hits at that point to do a full show).

While Twain credits their relationship with helping her career, she dismisses suggestions that he is a puppeteer behind her success.

She says she comes up with most of the song ideas and many of the lyrics and melodies, while he takes lead on arrangements and production.

"He on his own has never had this kind of success. And me on my own, I doubt very much I would have had this kind of success. First of all, would I even have found anyone who had so much faith in me? Part of why I think I flourished is because he believed so much in me. He loved my voice; he loved my songwriting. He was my biggest fan."

As for the critics, she says she was ready for them. She had been writing songs and performing since she was a child and was confident in her abilities.

And today, she says, most of the doubters have gone away.

"There's so much consistency in the music, so much consistency in everything," she says. "You can't really duplicate that if it's not really you."





## OPINION

## America needs debate in cabinet meetings

BY MARTIN SCHRAM

Scripts Howard

The nomination of Condoleezza Rice as secretary of state should be celebrated as yet another triumph of the principle that has made Washington all that it is today.

It is not Bush's principle, per se. Nor Clinton's, nor Rumsfeld's. It is Peter's.

Peter Principle, noun. "The theory that employees within an organization will advance to their highest level of competence and then promoted to and remain at a level at which they are incompetent." (The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language.) It was just one year ago that President Bush — his pre-war assertions of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction disproved and postwar Iraq security disintegrated — announced with fanfare that National Security Adviser Condi Rice would head a newly created Iraq Stabilization Group to coordinate interagency efforts.

Today it is pertinent to recall how this corner cheered that news: "In a startling and bold turnaround that rocked Washington's policy wonks and pundits, President Bush has announced that his national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, will now start doing her job."

After all, coordination of Pentagon/CIA-State conflicts was the core of an NSC adviser's job. It's the Rice failed to do. Analyses that went against the Bush-Cheney-Rummy take for invading Iraq were dismissed or deep-sixed, as were military warnings that inadequate troop levels would lead to postwar disaster.

In time, that negative assessment of Rice's performance became widely shared by experts of various persuasions and per-

spectives. The report of the 9/11 commission assuaged Rice's failings, especially her failure to act on warnings received from staff counterterrorism expert Richard Clarke.

■ Jan. 25, 2001: Clarke wrote of the "urgent need" for a high-level meeting on al-Qaida. It didn't happen until seven days before 9/11.

■ March 23: Clarke warned that terrorists must attack the White House with a truck-bomb; also, al-Qaida and other terrorist cells were operating in the United States.

■ May 29: Clarke wrote that a Palestinian with al-Qaida ties might launch attacks. "When those attacks occur, as they likely will, we will wonder what more we could have done to stop them."

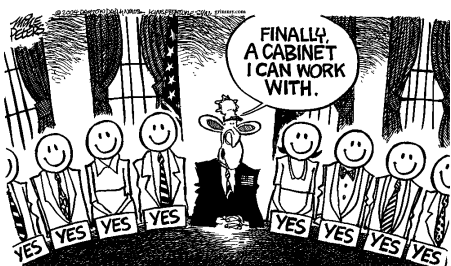
■ June 25: Clarke warned that "six separate intelligence reports showed al-Qaida personnel warning of a pending attack."

■ June 28: Clarke warned that indications al-Qaida was preparing an attack "had reached a crescendo."

■ June 30: Clarke wrote a report to Rice and others titled "Bin Ladin Planning High-Profile Attacks." On Aug. 6, other analysts included in the "President's Daily Brief" a short report titled: "Bin Ladin Determined to Strike in U.S."

All these show why Rice probably was the worst national security adviser in the modern era. But the greatest shortcoming of the 46-year-old ex-academic may have been her reluctance to firmly counter her "Very Important Elders" — Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Indeed, she once told an interviewer that she was "the baby" of that elite group.

(Timeout: The sound you are hearing is that of one mind boggling. I just tried to con-



democratic NSC adviser — Henry Kissinger — saying he was "the baby" of Nixon's team.)

... Now Washington is adjusting to a new era where principle rules — the Peter Principle. After all, we'll soon inaugurate a president who won on a record of policy successes in all areas except foreign and domestic.

Rice as secretary of state wins no applause from another hard-line Bush Republican who has been there and done that.

"She is not the person for that job," Lawrence Eagleburger, a secretary of state for President George H.W. Bush, bluntly told CNN's "Paula Zahn Now" show.

"I do not believe that you should have in the secretary of state someone who has spent their last four years in the White House next to the president. I do believe you need tension between the State Department,

the Defense Department and the National Security Council."

Eagleburger should know. He was executive assistant to Kissinger when Nixon named Kissinger secretary of state — and let him keep his NSC adviser job, too.

Eagleburger saw from high and inside what can go wrong. So Eagleburger isn't comforted by Bush's equally principled choice to replace Rice: her loyal deputy, Stephen Hadley.

Eagleburger bemoans: "Everybody is going to speak the Kissinger language."

There is one more principle we should have learned — if not from Eagleburger's Kissinger years, then from our last four years. We are at risk any time a national security staff is recast as a bunch of bobbles-heads, mindlessly nodding yes to any and all.

## TV: 'Where never is heard a discouraging word'?

WASHINGTON — When ABC's affiliate stations are afraid to broadcast "Saving Private Ryan" for fear of being fined by the Federal Communications Commission, it makes me wonder about the new moral order that some people think is on the rise.

## Clarence Page

I can't say for sure, but if Oscar-winning director Steven Spielberg's World War II epic *Saving Private Ryan* and America's troops is off limits to the networks, ABC's "Desperate Housewives" had better watch their backs.

Even though "Saving Private Ryan" aired uncensored and without public uproar in 2001 and 2002, about 65 of ABC's more than 220 affiliate stations refused to air the movie this Veterans Day.

What's changed? History and politics. First, there was Janet Jackson's breast-baring wardrobe malfunction at this year's Super Bowl, which led to heavy fines against CBS and its affiliates.

The stations tried to get an advance ruling on "Saving Private Ryan" but, as an FCC spokeswoman told The Hollywood Reporter, "that would be censorship."

With no FCC guidelines to guide them, stations serving about a third of the nation censored themselves.

Another factor in their decision was the reputed rise of "moral values" as a defining issue in recent elections. "We're just coming off an election where moral issues were cited as a reason by people voting one way or another," Ray Cole, president of Citadel Communications, which

owns three Midwestern stations, told The Associated Press. "And, in my opinion, the [FCC] commissioners are fearful of the new Congress."

But a closer look at Election Day exit polls indicates the reputed rise in social conservatism may be a false media-generated perception. Exit polls conducted nationally by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International showed "moral values" with 22 percent, beat "economy and jobs" (20 percent), "terrorism" (19 percent) and "Iraq" (16 percent) as the issue of greatest importance to voters.

The Pew Research Center found similar results with a post-election poll of 1,209 voters. But when Pew offered a wider range of choices, "moral values" fell to only 14 percent, behind "Iraq" (25 percent) and ahead of "jobs and the economy" (12 per-

cent) and "terrorism" (9 percent). ...

No, it is not in the media, biased toward anything that sounds new, who inflated the importance of "moral values." Within hours, "moral values" became a durably defining issue of 2004 like "soccer moms" in 1996 and 1994's "angry white males."

It is not even clear what the voters who mentioned "moral values" had in mind. Did they mean, for example, that the racy, yet realistic language of "Saving Private Ryan" was enough to take it away from those who wanted to see it on TV without having to buy a cable TV subscription? The American Family Association of Tupelo, Miss., thinks so. The long-time TV *Wipeout* group is urging viewers to complain to the FCC about the movie's "at least 20 'f' words and 12 's' words," even though it approves of the movie's patriotic themes.

When I asked AFA President Tim Wildmon, son of founder Don Wildmon, in a telephone interview if he perceived that the FCC is putting a chill on artistic creativity by the networks, he responded, "Good! They need to be chilled a little bit."

Do they? If there is anything we do not need to encourage in network television, it is more blandness. ...

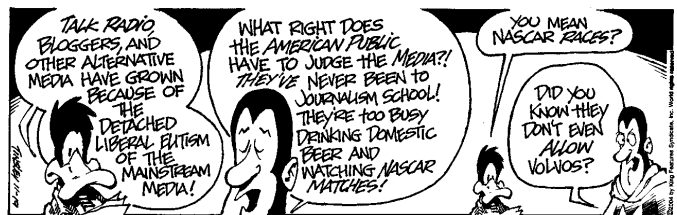
[The saucy language in Spielberg's film has redeeming social value, to use the Supreme Court's famous phrase. Its language, like its brutal violence, is an integral part of the riveting realism that makes the Oscar-winning movie a uniquely effective cinematic tribute to the heroism of ordinary Americans at war.]

If there is any production with which parents can be trusted to decide the viewing habits of their household, this is it.

Clarence Page is a Chicago Tribune columnist.

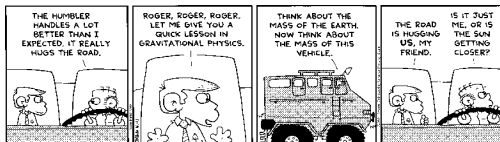
## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY





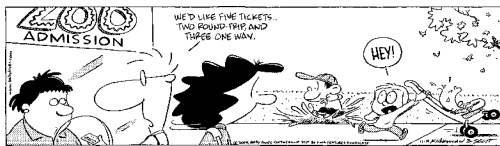
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



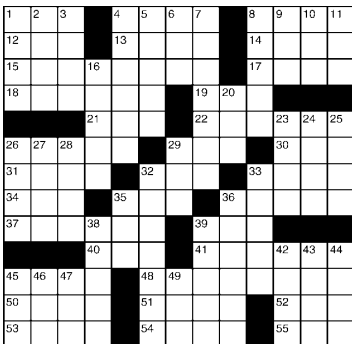
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



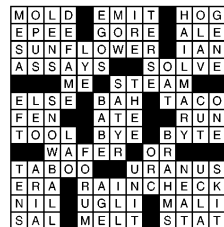
## Across

- 1 Billboards  
4 Hasn't settled yet  
8 Teensy bit, to a chaf  
12 Shuffleboard stick  
13 Grats  
14 Neighborhood  
15 Remain unresolved  
17 Vegan's no-no  
18 Firstborn  
19 Snake eyes  
21 Witness  
22 Problem  
26 Footballer Favre  
29 "The Amazing Race" episode  
30 Gorilla  
31 Cleanse  
32 Launch site  
33 Like a snail  
34 Improve, to a virtner  
35 Chatter away  
36 Brick-makers' needs  
37 Persist  
39 Cambridge sch.  
40 Mel of Cooperstown  
41 Parka  
45 Soared  
48 Cuticle woe  
50 "Hee Haw"-like humor  
51 Differently  
52 Indignation  
53 Gear features

## Down

- 54 Clarinetist's need  
55 Beautician's bottle  
27 Indian style of music  
28 Fair and balanced  
29 Matlock's field  
32 Cougar's kin  
33 Squelch  
35 Make marginalia  
36 Promoted a checker  
38 Prom purchases  
39 Imposing home  
42 Incursion  
43 Ethereal  
44 "Fish Magic" painter  
45 TV watchdog org.  
46 Privy  
47 Work unit  
49 Milwaukee product  
25 Church array

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 11-19

## CRYPTOQUIP

VC AUCQ ZB WTBQAO  
ZBBZXWSUZZ OBRZSNRCTU.  
DAZ BAT DAUNRCUU VCRZ

QBVR ZXC ZADCU.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: STUCK AMONGST A SUFFOCATING MULTITUDE OF PEOPLE, THE SKETCH ARTIST DREW A CROWD.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals O

# Different colleges result in split

**Dear Abby:** My son, "Glenn," and his girlfriend of two years, "Nancy," have started college at different universities. Nancy made the cheerleading squad, and now it has gone to her head.

Nancy was never popular in high school, but now that she is, she has decided she no longer wants anything to do with Glenn. She acts very spoiled and wants everything her way.

Nancy told my son she likes being away from her parents and him, so she can do what she wants, when she wants. Glenn is worried sick about her. He thinks she's going to get in her head. His father and I tell him he needs to move on.

I know he loves Nancy, so how can we get him to forget her?

— Worried in Kansas

**Dear Worried:** College is a time for growth, and in this case, the two young lovers have grown in different directions. Encour-

age your son to become more active at school, to study hard and to make a point of meeting new people. As much as he cares about Nancy, she has declared her independence. Since he can't protect her, he should concentrate his energies on taking care of himself. Time and distraction will heal what's ailing him.

**Dear Abby**



**Dear Abby:** Ten years ago, my fiancé, "Rick," and his then-wife, "Kim," lost their son shortly after birth. They had him cremated. Much to Rick's horror, Kim disposed of their baby's ashes in a dumpster. She said she never

wanted the baby in the first place.

Rick was devastated, as was the entire family. Kim acted very shut off and cold, not only during this tragic event, but with their other children as well.

Every year on the anniversary

of his son's death, Rick breaks down and I grieve beside him. Is there anything I can have made (or make myself) in honor of the child? I feel it would ease the minds of those who were truly bereaved and let the baby boy rest in peace.

— Wants to Help

**Dear Wants:** I'm unclear from your letter whether Rick's wife was distant during their entire marriage, or whether she might have been suffering from depression (and possibly psychosis) after the death of the baby. Because her behavior was bizarre, I can only hope she received medical and psychological care.

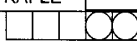
That you want to honor your fiancé's child is commendable, but before doing anything, talk to Rick and ask what he would like. Planting a tree in a park with a small plaque would make a nice memorial - or perhaps a scholarship in the baby's name.

Letters for this column - with your name and phone number - should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69450, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can contact Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uspspress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

## JUMBLE

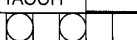
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**KAFLE**

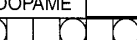


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**TACCH**

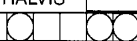


**DOPAME**



[www.jumble.com](http://www.jumble.com)

**HALVIS**



**Answer: A**



(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DECAY MOUND CANNED BAMBOO

Answer: What the fireman inherited from his rich uncle — MONEY TO BURN

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argilron

That Mr. Van Snoot got in again without paying



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

# Wife's handicaps drain husband

**Dear Annie:** My wife, "Andie," age 49, is physically disabled due to complications from surgery, and sex is very painful for her. In addition, she is in constant pain, can't work and is not able to do much around the house.

I am 48 and Andie's caregiver. The prospect of spending the rest of my life without a fulfilling sexual relationship is bleak and frustrating. In addition, our social life has become very limited, and I spend all my time either working to pay her medical bills (which are enormous) or taking care of her needs and the house.

If I leave, I will have to support her financially for life, which would leave me with very little to live on. Andie is moody and difficult, and often is on huge amounts of medication. There is little hope for improvement in her condition, and we have seen dozens of specialists.

Before this, Andie and I had a good marriage and a fairly happy

**Annie's Mailbox**



life. This has been going on for five years, and I feel like parts of me are dying.

— Emotionally Drained in Denver

**Dear Denver:** Your situation is difficult, but we hope you will not abandon Andie because life has taken a left turn. There are ways to have a reasonably satisfying sex life without intercourse. You and Andie should discuss this with her doctor and both be willing to adjust accordingly. Andie also should seek help from a psychologist who can work on her negative attitude, so your resentment doesn't boil over. Last, please contact the National Family Caregivers Association at 1-800-896-3650 ([thefamilycaregiver.org](http://thefamilycaregiver.org)) for support. Good luck.

**Dear Annie:** The receptionist in our office has appointed herself the unofficial organizational maven. She is constantly reorganizing the break room, supply closet and coat closet, and she's

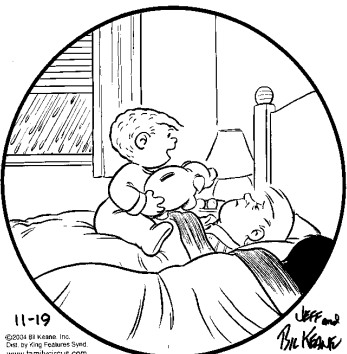
especially fixated on my desk. I am left-handed and have things set up for my convenience. At least twice a week, I find my desktop rearranged. I have asked "Daria" to leave my desk alone, but she shrugs and says, "I'm only straightening it up for you." If I ignore her, she makes a point of telling me she was happy to straighten my things. I have spoken to our boss, but he refuses to get involved. I like my job, but I'm giving serious thought to leaving.

**Sick of It: Daria** is passive-aggressive. She's deliberately getting your attention in a way that seems kind but is actually hostile. So don't be nice. Tell her, "Daria, you are NOT permitted to touch my desk. If you don't stop harassing me, I will report you."

Then tell the boss that if he doesn't put a lid on Daria's house-keeping, you will be forced to look for another job.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sauer, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

## Family Circus



11-19

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"Y'know how you said I should save my money for a rainy day? Well ..."

## GRAFFITI

IF YOUR DOCTOR SAYS YOU'RE SOUND AS A DOLLAR - LIE DOWN

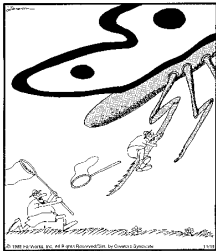
Demis the Menace



"It's A LOT MORE FUN WHEN YOU ADD WATER!"

© Gary Larson

The Far Side



"To the death, Carlson! Hang on to the death!"

Non Sequitur







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Deadline to place, cancel, or make any change to an ad is four business days prior to first date of publication. It is the responsibility of the advertiser to contact European Stars & Stripes Classified on the first date of publication to correct errors. If the ad has a typographical error, that does not affect the integral value of the ad, i.e., misspelled words, wrong category (case-by-case), OAPS, bold, italicized information, it will be corrected, but no reworked will be given. Incorrect phone numbers, wrong prices, wrong dates, make or model listed incorrectly will result in a misaligned for one additional day. Stars & Stripes reserves the right to edit and return any ad at its discretion for publishing. All classified advertisements are non-refundable.

## ... it's a SNAP!

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# Confident Wolfpack overwhelms New Orleans

By KEITH PARSONS  
The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Time and again, a North Carolina State player turned down an open shot, choosing instead to pass the ball to an open teammate.

"I'm just really proud of them, because they did it the right way," Wolfpack coach Herb Sendek said. "We all kind of like ourselves, and it's commendable when you have people willing to share."

Julius Hodge led a balanced attack with 21 points, and No. 19 N.C. State jumped on New Orleans early in a 92-58 victory Wednesday night in the first round of the BCCA Invitational.

Jordan Collins scored a career-high 17 points, Engin Atsuar had 14 and four other players finished with at least eight.

"We shared the ball tonight like never before," said Tony Bethel, who joined Hodge with a game-high six assists. "We made the extra pass. Guys were passing up good shots to get a great one."

N.C. State advanced to the second round and will play Florida which beat Fairleigh Dickinson 73-59.

The Wolfpack made their first



North Carolina State's Cameron Bennerman (13) takes the ball away from New Orleans' Bo McCaleb during the first half Wednesday in the first round of the BCCA Invitational in Raleigh, N.C.

five shots and scored the first 11 points, never giving the Privateers a chance and coach Monte Towse a chance.

Towse starred at N.C. State during the 1970s, leading a team that included David Thompson and Tommy Burleson to the 1974

NCAA championship.

Thompson and Burleson sat behind the scorer's table for this one, watching as their former teammates tried in vain to keep New Orleans in the game. The Privateers had more turnovers than baskets well into the second half,

and they even resorted to running down the shot clock.

Nothing helped, mostly because the Wolfpack were too good. After Collins started the scoring with two free throws, Bethel and Levi Watkins each made two three-pointers. Collins added a three-point play, and N.C. State didn't miss until Hodge's first shot after 5½ minutes into the game.

"This has been a highlight for me, to bring my team in here to Raleigh," Towse said. "I have to give North Carolina State all the credit in the world. I've always thought Herb Sendek has done a great job, and he'll continue to do so if everybody keeps supporting him."

Atsuar had four threes — all in the first half — as the Wolfpack went 11-of-28 from beyond the arc. They had 80 points with well over 10 minutes left in the game, thanks to that unselfish style of play that included 24 assists.

Bo McCaleb led New Orleans with 21 points, the team's only player in double figures.

"I have to give Bo credit for hanging in there and hanging tough," Towse said. "I thought Bo showed everybody that he can play with anybody in the country."

The Privateers used a brief run to get within 47-27 near the end of the first half, but N.C. State closed with nine straight points.

Ilian Evtimov started it off with a jumper, and Hodge added two layups.

After a turnover, Cameron Bennerman followed up a miss by Bethel with a powerful dunk. Hodge made a free throw with less than a second left to close out the scoring.

"I guess making shots can be contagious," Hodge said. "Guys were really feeding off each other. This is the most confident the team has been in the offense since I've been here. We're just going to continue to follow the plan."

The second half wasn't much better for New Orleans. With the score 61-37, Collins started a 13-0 spurt with another three-point play. Evtimov followed with a layup of a nifty pass from Bethel, Bennerman had four points and Hodge added his own rim-shaking dunk.

Freshman Gavin Grant closed it out with his first basket, a jumper from the wing.

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# Report: Spurrier bound for South Carolina

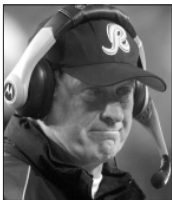
## Newspaper says ex-Florida coach will step in if Holtz retires after season

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Steve Spurrier has agreed to take over as football coach at South Carolina if Lou Holtz retires at the end of the season, The Tennessee of Nashville reported in Thursday's editions.

An announcement regarding Spurrier, who won a national championship at Florida, is expected next week, the newspaper said, citing an anonymous source close to the situation.

South Carolina spokesman Kerry Tharp denied the report. He said the 67-year-old Holtz still needs to decide whether to return for a seventh season with the Gamecocks.



Steve Spurrier

"Let's let him make that assessment," Tharp told The Associated Press. "I can't comment on what

people are speculating. I'd just as soon leave it at that."

Several times this season Holtz has said he felt tired and worn out. He's also mentioned that Spurrier would be a good choice to succeed him.

This week, as the Gamecocks (6-4, 4-4 Southeastern Conference) prepared for Saturday's game with Clemson, Holtz addressed reports that South Carolina contacted Spurrier.

"I've talked to Steve," Holtz said. "I don't want to go in that direction, but I have talked to him. We talked about how you cure a slice, his son, etc. Steve's a good friend of mine, as I said. All I want to talk about is Clemson, Clemson, Clemson. That's all."

That's the only thing on my mind."

There was much speculation that Spurrier would return to Florida next season, following the recent firing of Ron Zook. But Spurrier pulled his name out of the running, saying coaching 12 years at one school was probably enough.

Spurrier and Holtz are friends. Spurrier helped Holtz's wife, Beth, obtain an appointment with Florida's NCAA faculty advisor Dr. Nicholas Cassisi for treatment for her throat cancer. When Beth Holtz was in the university's surgical center for several weeks, Spurrier's wife, Jerri, checked on her several times to see what she needed.

"He didn't have to do any of that," Holtz said in 1999. "He's got a million other thoughts on his mind. I was out of coaching."

Spurrier, 59, went 20-13-1 in three seasons at Duke before taking over at Florida, his alma mater, in 1990. The Gators won six Southeastern Conference championships and the 1996 national title under Spurrier. He posted 122 victories over 12 seasons, tormented opponents with his offensive flair and witty one-liners, and left town with the best winning percentage in league history.

Spurrier abruptly left after the 2001 season, taking over the Washington Redskins. Spurrier resigned after two seasons with a 12-20 record.

# Auburn, Alabama bring steel-trap defenses to Iron Bowl

BY JOHN ZENOR

The Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Alabama has the nation's top pass defense and ranks second overall. No team in major college football allows fewer points than No. 2 Auburn.

Welcome to this year's edition of the Iron Bowl — sure to be a defensive struggle.

Saturday's game at Bryant-Denny Stadium will feature two of the best defenses around — units built on speed, sound fundamentals and simply making more big plays than they allow.

"This will probably be one of the best defenses, if not the best, defense we'll see, no matter how many games we have left or who we play," Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville said.

"I think it's the fastest defense we've seen all year," Alabama offensive coordinator Dave Rader said of the Tigers.

Alabama (6-4, 3-4 Southeastern Conference) is allowing just 230 total yards per game and has given up just eight passing touchdowns.

Clearly, Alabama defensive coordinator Joe Kines knew what he was doing despite criticism for an inconsistent group last season.

"Joe Kines took a lot of ridicule last year and obviously has made



a lot of people look silly," said Tuberville, a longtime friend of Kines.

The Tigers (10-0, 7-0) are allowing just 9.3 points per game, fewest in the nation, and rank fifth in total defense, eighth against the pass and 12th against the run. Plus, they've allowed a single touchdown on the ground heading into a matchup against the league's top rushing offense.

"They run to the football and tackle," Rader said. "They play well and if somebody makes a mistake, they make up for them and somebody's there to make the tackle. They swarm to the football very well. It's quite impressive."

The Tigers are led by the league's top pass rush, an undersized but quick and athletic line-backing corps and a secondary directed by safety Junior Rosegreen and cornerback Carlos Rogers.

ers, one of five finalists for the award given to the nation's top defensive player.

"They play lights-out football," Alabama offensive tackle Wesley Britt said. "They run around and they hustle and they never quit."

Alabama's defense is led by a deep group of linebackers that Auburn offensive coordinator Al Borges said is "as good as any we've seen."

Tide safety Charlie Peprah said the biggest difference from last year's group is "the attitude of the guys." He said watching film from last year's Iron Bowl showed a tendency to have one or two players out of position, leading to big plays by the offense.

"We're just running the stuff better and we're practicing to get better, not just to get through it and go home," Peprah said.

"We take the initiative ourselves to try to be perfect. That's a big difference."

The defenses will face vastly different challenges Saturday.

Auburn boasts the league's top scoring offense, a diverse attack built around tailbacks Ronnie Brown and Carnell Williams and quarterback Jason Campbell.

"It may be the best offense I've seen on tape in the last 15 years," Kines said. "If you sat down and you wrote a list of things you'd



Cornerback Carlos Rogers, left, part of Auburn's fifth-ranked defense, defends against Georgia's Reggie Brown (1) during the Tigers' 24-6 victory last weekend in Auburn, Ala.

like to have offensively to be successful, they've pretty much got the whole list covered."

The Tide mostly rides the relentless running of Kenneth Darby, the league's No. 2 rusher. Auburn defensive coordinator Gene Chizik said Alabama is "definitely the best rushing team" the

Tigers have faced this year.

"Darby is a super football player," said Chizik, whose defense hasn't allowed a team to reach 150 yards rushing this season.

"The offensive line is big and physical and they're running on everybody," he said. "They run the ball well for a reason."

# Black Knights face long odds against Blazers in final home game

BY MARK JOHNSON

The Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Army coach Bobby Ross concedes that on paper his team doesn't match up well with UAB.

But if the Black Knights (2-7, 2-5 Conference USA) play "error free" football, Ross said he thinks they can upend the Blazers on Saturday in Army's final home game of the season.

UAB is "bigger than most NFL teams," Ross said. "They've got us by size and they've got us by speed. They're a better football team than we are, but that doesn't mean we can't win ... I still feel we have a good chance."

The Blazers (6-3, 4-2) are coming off a 20-7 victory over Houston. Coach Watson Brown shuffled his staff going into that game, moving assistants Rick Christopel and Woodrow Lowe to work with the defensive line after his team gave up 104 points in two straight losses.

The move paid off as the Blazers became the only offense and appeared to regain some of their early season momentum.

UAB is seeking its first bowl game since moving to Division I-A in 1996. The Blazers have won at least six games twice since 2000 but have never made the postseason.

"Getting bowl eligible and getting taken

are two different things," Brown said. "The kids deserve the opportunity. At least we've gotten that piece taken care of, but there's still a lot of football left to play."

UAB's attack is led by Roddy White, the leading receiver in Division I. He is averaging 127 yards a game and 20 yards per catch and has scored 11 touchdowns this year.

"He'll draw a lot of attention because when you see him out there a red flag goes up," said Ross, who was critical of his team's defense in its 45-31 loss to Tulane last week.

Quarterback Darrell Hackney has been

another impressive performer for UAB, throwing for 2,248 yards and 20 TDs with just six interceptions this season. Under him, UAB is averaging slightly more than 32 points a game to rank 21st nationally.

He'll be facing a defense that ranks last among 117 Division I schools in allowing opponents 514 yards of offense a game. The Black Knights also gave up 36 points a game.

The Blazers, ranked 92nd in total defense, will have to contend with Army running back Carlton Jones, ranked as the country's 10th leading rusher. Jones, averaging 126 yards rushing a game, has 16 TDs on the season and has given the Black Knights a much-needed spark this year.

# RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS



The five drivers in contention for the Nextel Cup entering Sunday's season finale in Homestead, Fla.: Dale Earnhardt Jr., Jimmie Johnson, Kurt Busch, Mark Martin and Jeff Gordon.

## Season's last race will determine NASCAR's next champion

BY JENNA FRYER  
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. Forget the math or the infinite number of potential scenarios to determine who will win NASCAR's Nextel Cup title.

There should be only one strategy for the five drivers still eligible to win the title Sunday at Homestead-Miami Speedway: win the race and don't worry about what the other competitors are doing.

With five racers separated by 82 points headed into the final event of NASCAR's 10-race Chase for the Nextel Cup Championship, a crew chief could go mad trying to crunch the numbers to figure out what his driver has to do to win.

So why even bother? "We'll have a 'Go for broke' attitude," said four-time series champion Jeff Gordon. "We have nothing

to lose, we'll give it everything we've got, and hope to come out on top."

"We have to win."

Kurt Busch heads into the finale with an 18-point lead over Jimmie Johnson. Gordon trails Busch by 21 points, Dale Earnhardt Jr. is 72 out and Mark Martin is 82 points behind.

The race is so tight that even if Gordon wins and leads the most laps, he can still lose the title if Busch simply finishes second.

The only sure bet is Busch. If he wins the race, he wins his first series title no matter what the others do.

Under the current scoring system, a win earns 180 points, a last-place finish gets 34 points and all the positions in between are staggered. Five-point bonuses are given to any driver who leads a lap, and an additional five-point bonus is awarded for leading the most laps in a race.

So if Busch wins the race, he is guaranteed 185 points. Even if Johnson, or Gordon, or anyone else finishes second and earned two bonuses — five points for leading one lap, and five more for leading the most laps — it would still only equal 180 points, not enough to overcome the lead Busch already has.

"I think if I'm Kurt, I would be really nervous," said Earnhardt. "He's in the situation where, you know, it's really basically up to him and his team to win or lose it."

Earnhardt and Martin have a much tougher battle ahead because, for all practical purposes, it's a three-man chase. Both of them can only hope to play the spoiler.

At 72 points back, Earnhardt needs a terrific finish and hope the three drivers ahead of him all have horrible finishes.

If Junior won the race and led

the most laps, Busch would have to finish 29th or worse and not lead a lap for Earnhardt to win the title. But Earnhardt would still have to contend with Gordon and Johnson and hope both of them also finished well behind him.

"We dug ourselves a pretty big hole, and it will be difficult to climb out and still win this championship," Earnhardt said.

"We're going to have to be the best team at Homestead as well as the luckiest."

"I think the Boston Red Sox kind of showed everybody this year what a team can achieve by not giving up, so we'll go into Homestead as a team still with a chance to win the championship."

Martin is in the same situation.

Still searching for his first series title, he's stopped thinking about how to win it and focused instead on the only thing he can control.

"We are 82 out, but we still

have a shot, but it really doesn't matter because we are going there to try and win the [race] and that's really all we can do," Martin said.

The points scenario is similar to the 1992 race, when four drivers battled for that title.

In the season-ending event at Atlanta Motor Speedway, the late Davey Allison started with a 30-point lead over the late Alan Kulwicki. Allison was 40 points up on Bill Elliott.

Allison needed to finish sixth or better to clinch the title, but after running sixth for much of the race, he crashed with Ernie Irvan. Kulwicki and Elliott were left to decide the title, and because Kulwicki led the most laps in the race, he clinched the 10-point bonus.

Elliott won the race, Kulwicki finished second and won the title because he led a single lap more than Elliott.

It could get just as wild at Homestead.

### NASCAR NEXTEL CUP

#### Race 36: Ford 400, 6 p.m. Sunday CET, AFN-Sports.

Last race: Jimmie Johnson fought for the fourth time in five races and moved within 18 points of standings leader Kurt Busch by taking the Mountain Dew Southern 500 in Darlington, S.C. Five drivers head into this weekend's finale separated by just 82 points.

Last year: Bobby Labonte won the Ford 400 after Bill Elliott's rear tire exploded on the last lap.

#### DRIVERS TO WATCH



Kurt Busch will win the championship if he wins the Ford 400. He can also win the championship by finishing in the top five and winning the race.



Jimmie Johnson has four victories and five top-10 finishes in the last five races.



Jeff Gordon is still very much in the title hunt, has scored four top-10 finishes in the last five races.



Dale Earnhardt Jr. is one of the best drivers in the series, but he has a poor showing for leading at least one lap.



Mark Martin is one of the best drivers in the series, but he has a poor showing for leading at least one lap.



Bobby Labonte is one of the best drivers in the series, but he has a poor showing for leading at least one lap.

#### FAST FACTS

The last time a points race was this close heading into the final event was 1992, when six drivers were separated by 113 points. Alan Kulwicki won that year. The polester has won this race two of the last three years. — NASCAR chairman Brian France announced Monday that the new points system will be retained next year.



Nextel Cup qualifying record  
Jimmie Johnson, 181.111 mph, 2003  
Nextel Cup race record  
Bobby Labonte, 116.868 mph, Nov. 15, 2003

### BUSCH SERIES

This week: Ford 300 at Homestead, Fla. (Tape-delayed, 2 a.m. Sunday, AFN-Sports).

Last race: Martin Truex Jr. clinched the series championship with his fourth-place finish in the 80-lap 200 in Darlington, S.C. Truex entered the race with a 160-point lead over Kyle Busch, but he was involved in a collision early before getting into another accident on lap 140. Jamie McMurray won for the second straight week.

Last year: Brian Vickers, 26, became NASCAR's youngest champion ever, claiming the 850-lap title with an 11th-place finish behind first-time winner Casey Kahne. David Green finished third and won four of his last five races.

Fast facts: This is the final race of the season. Truex is the first driver to win a Busch championship in his first full season on the circuit since Dale Earnhardt Jr. took the first of his two consecutive titles in 1998.

Nextel Cup qualifying record  
Jimmie Johnson, 181.111 mph, 2003

Nextel Cup race record  
Bobby Labonte, 116.868 mph, Nov. 15, 2003

### INDY RACING

Last race: Helio Castroneves picked up his first win in 39 races by taking the season-ending Chevy 500 at Texas Motor Speedway, series champion Tony Stewart finished second. Castroneves became the first driver in any major series to complete a season.

Last race: Sebastian Bourdais overcame a spin and a sticky gearbox to win his first Champ Car title, beating team-mate Bruno Junqueira.

Nextel Cup qualifying record  
Jimmie Johnson, 181.111 mph, 2003

Nextel Cup race record  
Bobby Labonte, 116.868 mph, Nov. 15, 2003

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Nextel Cup race record  
Bobby Labonte, 116.868 mph, Nov. 15, 2003

# McNair practices but status unclear

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee quarterback Steve McNair practiced with the first team Wednesday, but coach Jeff Fisher said whether the co-MVP of 2003 plays Sunday against Jacksonville remains a game-time decision.

McNair has not played since bruising his chest for the second time in the second quarter of a 20-3 loss at Minnesota on Oct. 24.

He went straight from practice Wednesday to the training room for treatment.

McNair then had a meeting and did not speak to reporters.

But Fisher said practicing is not the issue with McNair.

"Throwing, running around is not the issue, but he appears to be better at this point. We will see how he moves around. We believe he is improving and we are encouraged at where he is right now, but we still have to wait, probably in all likelihood until game time," Fisher said.

The Titans (3-6) worry that another hit to the chest could knock out McNair for another two to three weeks, and there's a chance neither starting offensive tackle will play.

Pro Bowl left tackle Brad Hopkins had surgery to repair broken bones in his right hand Wednesday and will be replaced by Jason

Mathews, an 11-year veteran. Mathews also has started at right guard and tight end this season for the banged-up Titans.

They also might be without veteran right tackle Fred Miller who has struggled with a sore right ankle the past couple weeks. Miller would have left last week's 19-17 overtime loss to Chicago if Hopkins had not broken his hand.

"I don't want to go out there and hurt the team. But with us being so thin, I definitely need to give it a shot and go out there and try to play. We'll see what happens later on in the week," Miller said.

If Miller can't play, he likely would be replaced by second-year lineman Todd Williams, who appears in a game last season and has played in only one game this year.

## No fine for alleged spitting

ASHBURN, Va. — The NFL will not fine Washington Redskins safety Sean Taylor after looking into allegations that a Cincinnati player was spit on during Sunday's game.

Bengals coach Marvin Lewis said one of his players was spit on during Cincinnati's victory. Lewis did not name either player involved, although comments from receiver T.J. Houshmandzadeh implied the culprit was Taylor.

The league, as it does every week, carefully examined every play from the game and found insufficient evidence for action.

"Sean Taylor will not be fined," NFL spokesman Michael Signora said Thursday. "There was no video evidence to support a fine."

Taylor has not commented on the matter. The No. 5 overall draft pick from Miami hasn't spoken to the media since he was arrested and charged with drunken driving on Oct. 28.

Redskins coach Joe Gibbs said Wednesday he had not discussed the spitting matter with Taylor.

"It really hasn't been a big deal to me," Gibbs said, who added: "I don't have a clue what's hap-

**NFL injury update**  
Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's progress. (See Scoreboard on Page 24 for complete injury report provided by the league.)  
**Panthers** QB Jake Delhomme (thumb) injured on Wednesday and his status is questionable for Sunday's game.  
**Chiefs** WR Randy McMillen (knee) is listed as doubtful, but the team has said he should play this week.  
**Jaguars** QB Byron Leftwich (knee) is doubtful. David Garrard will start in his place.

pened here."

## Panthers' Davis has surgery

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Carolina running back Stephen Davis had microfracture surgery on his right knee, and the surgery is potentially career threatening.

But the Panthers downplayed the severity of it Wednesday. Backup running back DeShaun Foster had the same procedure in 2002 and didn't miss a beat, but wide receiver Patrick Jeffers had it and never played again.

"I think everybody is different," Panthers General Manager Marty Hurney said. "Stephen is competitive and has drive and determination. It was just done and it will be a process that takes several months. We'll take it as it goes."

Davis played in only two games this season before having arthroscopic surgery Sept. 17 to clean out torn cartilage in his knee. He played in one game after the procedure, but every time he tried to practice, his knee would swell.

Carolina put him on injured reserve last week, and he had the procedure Tuesday that requires doctors to drill holes into the kneecap.

When Foster had similar surgery, he missed one season and came back for a solid 2003 campaign. But Davis is six years older, and has a history of injury problems. He's played just one full 16-game schedule in his eight NFL seasons.

## Cowboys RB Jones practices

IRVING, Texas — Julius Jones practiced for the first time in almost two months Wednesday but isn't expected to play this week for the Dallas Cowboys.

The rookie running back has been out since he broke his left shoulder in his NFL debut, the Cowboys' 19-12 win over Cleveland on Sept. 19.

Coach Bill Parcells listed Jones as "out" for Sunday's game at Baltimore. He said he wasn't sure when Jones would play.

"I don't have a time right now," Parcells said. "I have to get him out there and just see how he does, what he looks like he's familiar with and able to do."

# Parcells: It's not time for Henson

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Bill Parcells is tired of the Cowboys losing five of their last six games, Parcells strongly reiterated Wednesday that the wait will continue for the team's quarterback of the future.

"We tried to explain it about 30 different ways," Parcells said. "It's not being stubborn," he said. "It's a well thought out, analytical, reasonable approach and we have given a lot more thought to it than any single person."

Henson has been the backup quarterback the past three weeks, but his only action has been as a holder on kicks. Even though the Cowboys' last three losses were by more than 20 points each, he didn't get a single snap at quarterback in any of those games.

The New York Giants, who have one more win than Dallas, replaced Kurt Warner with rookie Eli Manning this week. Pittsburgh has won all seven games since rookie Ben Roethlisberger became the starter, and Craig Kenzel is 3-0 with Chicago.

Still, Parcells hasn't been swayed by player Henson.

"It's not that I wouldn't like to find out about the player. I want to do that," he said. "But right now, I don't think it's the time. So that's it. It's going to stay that way for a while."

Parcells said it would take about two hours to explain everything that goes into his thought process about Henson. Without elaborating, Parcells said he didn't want to put the young quar-

terback in the wrong situation at this wrong time.

Henson's last QB snap in a meaningful game was for Michigan in the 2001 Citrus Bowl. He then played three seasons in professional football before joining the Cowboys.

Part of Parcells' reluctance to change quarterbacks has been the wrong message it could send that the focus was switching to the future and away from this season.

"We are trying to win here. We are not running a tryout camp," Parcells said. "It's as simple as that. The other player gives us a better chance to win the game. That is what I am trying to do."

Vinny Testaverde has 2,305 yards passing and is on pace to be the first Cowboys quarterback with more than 4,000 yards. Only Don Meredith has thrown more for a season, the first nine games of a season (2,369 yards in 1965).

Testaverde, who reunited with Parcells last summer and turned 41 Saturday, isn't bothered by the talk about Henson.

"I'm experienced enough to realize how the process works, how most people view things and see things," said Testaverde, who is in his 18th NFL season. "But it doesn't stop me from trying to come out and compete and win a game."

While with the New York Jets, Testaverde was replaced by Chad Pennington. He knows Henson is next in line in Dallas.

"Eventually, that process will take place... whether it's this week, next week or a month from now, a year from now," Testaverde said. "Whenever it is, it will happen. That's not my decision. It's one man's decision. He's going to make the call."

And Parcells isn't saying when that might happen.

# Line: Sticking to the run gave OL confidence

LINE, FROM BACK PAGE

The results are obvious. The line was so dominating during a 27-3 victory over the Eagles on Nov. 7 that television repeatedly showed replays displaying holes big enough for a bus to drive through — or for the BS, Jerome Bettis, to run through.

"We realized that we're going to run the ball six, seven times in a row and you just run it," Faneua said. "Just pounding it and driving it and running, we feed off that."

Jeff Hartings, a nine-year veteran at center and the team's most experienced lineman, agrees would be difficult for any line to be playing much better.

Offensive line coach Russ Grimm might not agree after all, he played on one of the best-known lines ever for the Super Bowl champion Redskins. But he appreciates what he's seeing, even if it has been for only about a half-season.

"Now, can we do it consistently?" he said. "That's the toughest thing."

Vincent doesn't see any let-down coming.

"What's crazy about this year is, after practice, a lot of us know the things we need to work on and we'll just work on it ourselves," he said. "We take pride in what we're doing."

The Steelers are proving an offensive line need not be studded with expensive high draft picks to be successful. While Faneua and Smith are big-money players, Vincent was an undrafted rookie free agent in 2001 and Ross didn't play a game in 1999 or 2000 after the Cowboys let him go following a brief trial in 1998.

"The fall of the offense last year fell on our shoulders," Faneua said. "So we take a little respect for ourselves knowing that us playing well is helping out the offense this year."

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# Dungy: Monday Night Football introduction racially offensive

## Reaction to segment featuring Eagles WR Owens, actress Sheridan ranges from anger to amusement

The Associated Press

If ABC hoped to generate a little bit more buzz for "Monday Night Football" and "Desperate Housewives," its steamy intro to the Dallas-Philadelphia game sure did the trick.

Two days after the network aired the segment featuring Eagles star receiver Terrell Owens and actress Nicolette Sheridan, coaches and players were still talking about it.

Reaction ranged from amusement to anger. Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy found it racially offensive.

"To me that's the first thing I thought of as an African-American," Dungy said Wednesday.

"I think it's stereotypical in looking at the players, and on the heels of the Kobe Bryant incident I think it's very insensitive. I don't think they would have had Bill Russell or Andy Reid or one of the owners involved in it," he added, a reference to the coaches in the game.

ABC's intro showed Sheridan waving a towel and provocatively asking Owens to skip the game for her as the two stood alone in a locker room. She drops the towel and jumps into Owens' arms. Owens is black and Sheridan is white.

"If that's what we have to do to get ratings, I'd rather not get them," Dungy said. "I realize that ratings pays us in this league, but if that's what we have to do, I'm willing to take a pay cut."

Philadelphia quarterback Donovan McNabb wasn't quite as vocal, saying he didn't find the segment offensive and believed people were overreacting. "Some people do different things," McNabb said. "Not saying that my wife would allow me to do that, but it's just something that was done, and you move on."



Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy, above, found the intro to "Monday Night Football," promoting ABC's show "Desperate Housewives" and depicting white actress Nicolette Sheridan trying to seduce Eagles WR Terrell Owens, who is black, racially offensive.

Michael Powell, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, had a different view, questioning ABC's judgment in airing the scene.

"I wonder if Walt Disney would be proud," he said.

ABC is owned by The Walt Disney Co. The FCC will review complaints and decide whether or not to open an investigation that could result in a fine against the network.

The segment drew complaints from viewers and the NFL. ABC Sports apologized for using the introduction to promote its show, "Desperate Housewives."

Dungy's comment, however, was the first that mentioned race. He also said the segment played off stereotypes of athletes.

"That athletes are sexual predators and that that stuff is more important than what's going on the field. That a guy was more concerned with that than the game, that's a terrible message to send," Dungy said. "I'm particularly sensitive to that. It could have been any player and I would have been outraged, but being an African-American, it particularly hurt me."

A decade ago Dungy was outspoken about the lack of black coaches in the NFL. There are currently five, including Dungy and Lovie Smith, whose Bears will face Dungy's Colts on Sunday.

"I thought it was in bad taste also," Smith said. "You could say that it was pretty close to pornographic, so any time that happens on prime time, something is wrong."

But Smith didn't find it racially offensive.

"I really can't go that far," he said. "I saw a naked lady with an athlete, period. Black, white, that doesn't really matter an awful lot to me."

Dungy said ABC had asked the Colts, who played on Monday night last week, "to do some things I thought would make our players look a little bit silly (although) nothing like that."

"We kind of declined," he said. Some players were also shocked.

"My mouth dropped when I saw that," said Washington tight end Mike Sellers, who was watching the game with his wife. "I said, 'Did they actually plan this on TV?'"

But at least one of his teammates wasn't bothered.

"I thought it was kind of cool, myself," linebacker Marcus Washington said. "I enjoyed the skit."



Denver Nuggets forwards Kenyon Martin, left, and Carmelo Anthony celebrate after Martin's basket helped seal the Nuggets' 112-106 victory over the Toronto Raptors in Denver on Wednesday.

# Relieved Anthony steps up his game

## Hours after marijuana charge is dropped, Nugget scores 30 in victory over Raptors

By JOHN MARSHALL

The Associated Press

DENVER — Carmelo Anthony's smile is back, and so is his game.

Hours after prosecutors dropped a drug charge against him, Anthony scored 30 points to help Denver hold off the Toronto Raptors 112-106 Wednesday night. Kenyon Martin added 24 points and 16 rebounds to give the Nuggets the 1-2 combination they had been hoping for.

Anthony was charged with drug possession on Oct. 15 after he was caught with marijuana in his backpack. A friend came forward and said the drugs were his, but the negative attention clearly affected "Melo" early in the season.

Not anymore.

After shooting 27 percent the first four games, Anthony has made 36 of 76 shots the past four, scoring at least 30 points twice.

More importantly, he has been more aggressive and the smile that characterized his stellar rookie season has returned.

"A little bit early in the season I was thinking about it, worrying about what they were going to do, but now I try to put basketball in the middle and work everything else around it," Anthony said.

He learned before the game that prosecutors had dismissed the charges and the good news seemed to give him a lift.

He was aggressive early — just as he had been in his previous three games — driving hard to the basket for layups and fouls. Anthony had 18 points by halftime and added eight in the third quarter to help the Nuggets rally from a poor second quarter.

He learned he had a key block in the closing minutes and made all 16 of his free throws, including two with 5.6 seconds left to seal Denver's second victory in three games since a 1-4 start.

"Carmelo is active and not set-

ting for jump shots," Nuggets coach Jeff Bzdelick said. "He is taking balls to the hole and hitting the offensive glass, and those kinds of things are needed for him to be a complete scorer."

The Raptors didn't shoot well after a sizzling end to the first quarter, but spread the scoring among eight players in double figures. Jalen Rose had 30 points — going 15-for-16 on free-throw attempts — Chris Bosh added 15 and Vince Carter 14.

Where the Raptors had trouble was on defense.

Toronto was outscored 56-26 inside and spent most of the game reaching on defense, sending the Nuggets to the free-throw line 34 times. Denver did its part, making 30 after entering the game at 69 percent, and took advantage of defensive lapses in the second half to hit 24 of 39 shots after shooting 35 percent in the first.

"We did enough things to win the game and scored enough points. We just didn't get stops when we needed them," said Toronto coach Sam Mitchell, whose team has lost five of six since a 3-4 start.

Toronto's biggest problem was slowing the combination of Anthony and Martin.

The pair was expected to give Denver a powerful front line after Martin signed in the offseason, but Anthony's early troubles and K-Mart's sore knee kept them from living up to the hype.

They sure did this time. Denver played without center Marcus Camby and power forward Nene due to hamstring injuries, and Martin did his best to make up for their absence with his usual aggressive play.

Charging in for dunks and clearing out congested paint, Martin made 11 of 23 shots, grabbed five offensive rebounds and had a spectacular dunk off Andre Miller's pass over the backboard to put the Nuggets up 110-106 with 13 seconds left.

# Owens apologizes for his role in 'MNF' skit

By DAN GELSTON

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Terrell Owens apologized Thursday to anyone offended by his role in a steamy segment with actress Nicolette Sheridan for the intro to "Monday Night Football."

"I felt like it was clean, the organization felt like it was a clean skit and I think it just really got taken out of context with a lot of people and I apologize for that," Owens said.

"Personally I didn't think it would have offended anyone and if, it did, I apologize."

ABC and the Eagles also apologized this week, with the team

saying they wished the segment "hadn't aired."

The opening, which has generated complaints to ABC and the Federal Communications Commission, showed Sheridan wearing only a towel and provocatively asking Owens to skip the game for her as the two stood alone in a locker room. She drops the towel and jumps into Owens' arms.

Owens had no idea the intro would create such a backlash.

"I thought it was a fun skit and that was it," Owens said.

Owens, a flashy player known for his outrageous touchdown celebrations, seemed to believe the skit was generating controversy because of his participation, not because of simulated nu-



Terrell Owens

"Anything I get involved with, I'm obviously a target," he said. "It happened."

When asked if he was shocked the story was making the front page of newspapers around the country, Owens quipped, "I always make the front page."





# No sign of NHL lockout ending anytime soon

## Union, players' agents meet, say it's up to the owners to make next move in negotiations

BY NANCY ARMOUR  
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The NHL players' union is answering the league's hard stance with one of its own, offering little hope for resolution of the lockout that threatens to wipe out the entire season.

The NHL Players' Association and 62 agents presented a unified front as they emerged from a six-hour informational session Wednesday, saying the union has presented a solid proposal and it's now up to the owners to come to the bargaining table.

If the owners refuse to budge, hockey won't be played "for a long, long time," agent Ritch Winter said.

"I guarantee the framework laid by the NHLPA will be what we will sign at one point," Winter said. "I can only hope the owners pay a little more attention, understand what it proposes, because it appears for the most part they do not. When they do, they'll understand the players as a group have given in a way that guarantees we can play hockey."

The lockout, in its 63rd day, was imposed by Commissioner Gary Bettman after the collective bargaining agreement expired Sept. 15.

The NHL and the players association haven't met since Sept. 9, and have no plans to return to the bargaining table.

The All-Star Game has already been canceled, and the Stanley Cup finals are in danger of being wiped out for the first time since 1919, when the series between Montreal and Seattle was stopped after five games due to a Spanish influenza epidemic.

"We've got real concerns that we're going to lose the season, there's no question," agent Don Baizley said. "Both sides remain resolute at this moment, so there is a real risk of losing the season, there's no question about that. But everybody hopes that can be avoided."

The union made the last propos-

al in September, a plan centered on a luxury tax instead of a salary cap. The NHL rejected it because the league says that won't achieve "cost certainty" — a term the players say is tantamount to a salary cap.

A handful of players said last month they would be willing to play under a salary-cap system, or would return to the ice next season if the NHL decided to use replacement players if a deal wasn't reached.

But agents at the meeting Wednesday said they supported NHLPA executive director Bob Goodenow. He explained the union's proposal in detail to the agents and shared the union's correspondence with the league.

"There's no question that all the agents and the players are on the same page with Bob," agent Mark Gandler said. "Everybody wants the season to start. But by the same token, not on the terms that are proposed by the league."

Though there had been some talk that the NHLPA might present the league with a new proposal, Goodenow said there are no plans for that right now.

"We understand that there are certain teams that have got some difficulties, there's no question at all about that. And our proposal recognizes that," Goodenow said. "But what the league's asking from the players is a cap system. The league is asking for players to correct situations which the CBA is not really the fault of."

"We can't be the solutions to all of their ills. And it's really disappointing that Gary Bettman and the owners don't step up and take some of the responsibility for some of the problems they themselves have created."

Playing the blame game isn't going to accomplish anything, said Bill Daly, the NHL's chief legal officer.

"This is a sport that has significant problems," Daly said. "It's not an issue of who created them, it's an issue of how to resolve the problems going forward. And that

should be equally important to the union as it is to the league."

NHL management claims teams combined to lose \$273 million in 2002-03 and \$224 million last season. While Goodenow said the players have proposed more

than \$100 million in annual concessions, Bettman has said the offer would do little for owners.

That appears to leave the sides at an impasse. With each passing day, the chances of saving the NHL season grow smaller.

"I'm not very optimistic at all," said Dallas Stars forward Bill Guerin, a member of the executive board. "But you never know. We're still very early into this whole lockout process. But I'm not optimistic."

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# English golfer Casey apologizes for saying he 'hates' Americans

The Associated Press

SEVILLE, Spain — English golfer Paul Casey apologized Thursday for derogatory comments he made about Americans. Casey was quoted in English newspapers saying he "hated" Americans. He said he'd made the statement in the context of the attitude he had going into the Ryder Cup two months ago, which Europe won in a landslide against the United States.

## Sports briefs

"I'd like to apologize and do everything I could to take it back," Casey said Thursday, after shooting an 11-under par 61 with partner Luke Donald in the World Cup.

Ireland's Padraig Harrington and Paul McGinley and Austria's

Martin Wiegele and Markus Brier shared the first-round lead with a score of 60.

Casey, 27, lives in Scottsdale, Ariz., attended college at Arizona State and will play full-time next season on the PGA Tour. He said he had been besieged with "huge negative feedback, a lot of nasty stuff" after his comments were widely reported on Wednesday.

A headline quoting Casey in

Wednesday's The Mirror newspaper read: "Americans are stupid. I hate them." He went on in the story to criticize the choice of Tom Lehman as 2006 American Ryder Cup captain.

"I regret what I said. Unfortunately the story has been run with and there is nothing I can do about that," Casey said. "I can't do anything to correct it now. I wish I could."

"I have nothing against the States whatever. I wouldn't live there if I did. I pay my taxes there, my coach, girlfriend and friends are there. I wish I could take it back."

Casey said it was his mistake to ever use the word "hate," even though it was meant in the context of a sports event.

"Unfortunately there was a line I said, which I can't deny I said. It was said off the cuff and maybe taken out of context, but nonetheless it was there," he added. "I shouldn't have used the word. That was my error."

## U.S. keeps Jamaica from advancing in Cup qualifying

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Jamaica failed to advance in World Cup qualifying, tying the United States 1-1 Wednesday in a game the Reggae Boyz needed to win. Jamaica would have advanced with a win, or a tie coupled with a Panama tie or loss. The Reggae Boyz were seeking to return to the World Cup after qualifying in 1998 and falling short in 2002.

## Percival agrees to two-year, \$12 million deal with Tigers

DETROIT — Free agent Troy Percival and the Detroit Tigers agreed Wednesday to a \$12 million, two-year contract, a move that will lead to Ugueth Urbina becoming a setup man or getting traded.

Percival, 35, was 2-3 with a 2.90 ERA and 33 saves last season with Anaheim. The Angels made no attempt to resign him and plan to use Francisco Rodriguez as their closer in 2005.

## Greek sprinters charged with dodging doping test

ATHENS, Greece — Greek sprinters Kostas Kenteris and Katerina Thanou and their coach were charged Thursday with avoiding a drug test on the eve of the Athens Olympics and faking a motorcycle accident hours later.

Chief prosecutor Dimitris Pangelopoulos, announcing the results of a two-month investigation, issued charges against the two athletes and coach Christos Tzekos. The coach was also charged with illegally importing and selling banned substances.

Twelve others — including seven doctors at the state-run hospital where Thanou and Kenteris were treated after the alleged motorcycle crash — were charged with making false statements.

No trial date was set, though it is not expected to go to trial for at least a year.

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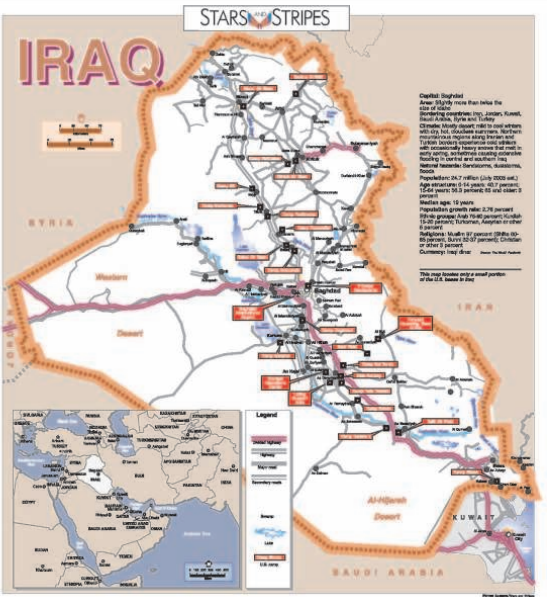
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## SPORTS



Time to 'go for broke'  
for five drivers still  
in the Chase, Page 34

## Anthony cleared for takeoff



After having marijuana possession charges dropped, Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony, left, scored 30 points against the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday night, helping Denver win 112-106. See Page 36.

## Steelers see line for MVP

Players say main reason for turnaround is effort of five guys in trenches

By ALAN ROBINSON  
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — When the Pittsburgh Steelers vote for the team's most valuable player this year, a lot of ballots might be split five ways.

Even with so many players enjoying big seasons — Ben Roethlisberger, Duce Staley, James Farrior and Troy Polamalu — the Steelers agree almost unanimously that the offensive line is the main reason for their dramatic turnaround.

One season after the Steelers endured their worst season running the ball since 1967, they are No. 2 in rushing — with only 20 fewer yards in nine games than they had in 16 last season. They're well down the list in sacks allowed, too, with only 15 — 25 fewer than the New York Giants.

Massive personnel changes aren't the reason for the upgrade; each of the five regulars started at least nine games last season except left tackle Marvel Smith, limited to six starts by a neck injury.

So how could a line that played well below expectations on a 6-10 team last year be performing at such a high level this season on an 8-1 team?

"There's been a big emphasis on the run this year from the start," former All-Pro guard Alan Faneca said Wednesday. "We've

been running the ball a lot and getting a lot of chances, and the running backs have been doing a good job of getting through the holes."

Last year, the Steelers abandoned their long-standing commitment to the running game to emphasize quarterback Tommy Maddox's throwing, a byproduct of Maddox's strong production once he became the starter in 2002.

This season, the Steelers have emphasized the run since the opening week of camp, when offensive coordinator Ken Whisenand didn't call a single passing play during the first three goal-line scrimmages against the defense.

It's also helped that there have been no injuries since right guard Kendall Simmons (knee) was lost for the season early in camp.

Keydrick Vincent stepped in for Simmons after making nine starts last season and, along with an ever-improving Oliver Ross at right tackle, has stabilized what appeared to be a shaky right side of the line.

"We're all anchored in our spots for a couple of months now, and that helps," Faneca said. "It helps to know what the guy next to you is thinking. It makes life a lot easier out there when you can just let it rip."

SEE LINE ON PAGE 35

Unselfish  
Wolfpack  
carve up  
Privateers  
by passing up  
good shots  
for teammates'  
great ones

Page 31



Spurrier reportedly has deal with South Carolina Page 33

